

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit will be conducting school vaccination clinics for students who are in Grade 7 for Hepatitis B (HB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccines. Attached is a schedule of school clinic dates.

The HB and HPV vaccines are both optional and consist of two doses given 6 months apart. The first dose will be given in October/November 2019 and the second dose in April/May 2020. The Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine is mandatory for attendance at school in Ontario and will be offered in October/November 2019 with the first doses of the HB and HPV vaccines. As with all other mandatory vaccines, students who do not receive the Meningococcal ACYW-135 vaccine or present a valid exemption may be suspended from school for non-compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act. Please refer to the Health Unit website at www.myhealthunit.ca for further information.

Please complete and sign the attached Grade 7 School Immunization Program Consent Form and have your child return the form to their school. This consent remains in effect until your child completes their Grade 7 vaccines. If your child has already received any of the vaccines, please attach a copy of his/her immunization record with the consent form. We will update our records accordingly. If you do not wish your child to receive any of these vaccine(s), please check (No) in the appropriate consent box and sign the form. **Only those students who present with a completed consent form and signed by a parent/guardian will be vaccinated.**

You can view your vaccination record using Immunization Connect Ontario, please visit www.myhealthunit.ca/reportvaccines and follow the online directions.

We strongly recommend that you review the information about these vaccines available on our website at www.myhealthunit.ca and that you discuss your decision with your child. Public Health nurses will provide a brief explanation to your child regarding the specific vaccines and risks and benefits of vaccinations and provide an opportunity for your child to ask questions prior to being vaccinated.

We recommend that your child eats breakfast and/or lunch before going to the school clinic for their vaccinations. They are also encouraged to wear short-sleeved shirts to allow for easy access to their upper arms.

Students who are absent or who do not wish to be immunized at the school clinic can receive these vaccines by scheduling an appointment at the Health Unit. If the HB vaccine is deferred beyond the Grade 7 year, there may be a cost to receive it. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program at 705-474-1400/1-800-563-2808 ext. 5252. For Parry Sound office 705-746-5801 ext 3215.