

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Reporting Immunization Records**

### **Why is Peel Public Health reviewing immunization records of Peel students?**

Peel Public Health is required by law to keep immunization records of all school-aged children in the Region of Peel. The review of immunization records is a routine process mandated by the ***Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990***. Under the Act, students under the age of 18, must provide proof of up-to-date immunization against: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella. The Act also requires public health departments to issue orders to suspend children whose records are incomplete.

### **Why do I need to immunize my child?**

Immunization is a simple and effective way to protect your child against dangerous infectious diseases. Immunization helps the immune system build its defences against specific viruses and bacteria. Thanks to immunization, some serious diseases that are still common in other parts of the world are rarely seen in Ontario.

### **I gave my child's immunization records to the school when he/she registered. Why is Peel Public Health asking for it again?**

The school collects and forwards immunization records to Peel Public Health only at the time of initial registration to school. After registration, you are responsible to update your child's immunization record with Peel Public Health each time your child is vaccinated. As your child gets older, there are additional doses of vaccine required for them to be completely immunized for their age. Also, at registration to school the information you provided may not have included all the infant doses and booster doses and these are required for your child's immunization record to be complete

### **My child had received all the routine immunizations and/or boosters recommended. Why did I receive a notice from Peel Public Health? Doesn't my doctor send it to you?**

Your doctor does not report your child's immunizations to Peel Public Health.

Your child may have received all the routine immunizations, but Peel Public Health may not have all the updated immunization information for your child. It is important that you notify Peel Public Health every time your child is immunized.

Your child is fully protected when he/she receives all the required number of doses correctly spaced between doses and at the correct age. Spacing and timing of vaccines affects how the body responds to the vaccines. If immunizations were given too early or too close together, or only some of the required doses were given, your child may not be fully protected against all the diseases he/she was vaccinated for.

**My child was immunized outside Canada. My child's records are from another country and are not in English. How can I get them translated?**

If your child has been immunized outside Ontario or Canada, additional immunizations may be needed to meet the requirements in this province. If your child has an immunization record from another country, Peel Public Health will translate it free of charge. Your child must be attending school in the Region of Peel. To arrange for translation please visit us in person at 44 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.

**My child does not have an Ontario Health Card. How can I get my child immunized?**

Peel Public Health provides immunizations for children who do not have an Ontario Health Card. Please call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 to make an appointment.

**Is it OK if my child receives several vaccines at the same time?**

Yes. Several vaccines can be given at the same time. If you have any questions, please speak with your family doctor or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.

**I do not want my child to be immunized. Can I get an exemption?**

If you do not wish your child to be immunized for medical or religious or sincerely held beliefs, you may request an exemption from Peel Public Health. Your physician or registered nurse in the extended class must complete the medical documents. A lawyer, justice of the peace or notary public must complete the legal documents (affidavit) as required for your exemption request. To be exempted, you must return all these completed documents to Peel Public Health.

*In case of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, students who have not been immunized for the above reasons may be excluded from school.*

**I do not have a family doctor. Where can I get my child immunized?**

If you don't have a family doctor, you can visit a walk-in clinic. A list of walk-in clinics in Peel is included in this package. Please call the walk-in clinic first to find out if you need to make an appointment to have your child immunized. If you need a family doctor, you can check the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario website [www.cpso.on.ca](http://www.cpso.on.ca), or check with your local hospital for a list of physicians who are accepting new patients.

**Do I have to pay for my child to be vaccinated or to obtain my child's immunization records from my family doctor?**

No, vaccinations against these diseases are free, and your family doctor should not charge you for providing updated immunization records to avoid suspension from school.

**Where can I get more information about immunization?**

For more information, please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700, talk to your family doctor, or visit [www.immunizepeel.ca](http://www.immunizepeel.ca).