

Suspension Orders under Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) to be Enforced Tuesday February 4th for Grade 4, 5, & 6 Students

Attention: Physicians, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Community Health Centres, Nurse and Nurse Practitioners, Family Health Teams, Ontario Health, Ontario Health Teams, Indigenous Healthcare & Community

Date: February 3, 2025

In follow up to our [Public Health Alert from January 7th, 2025](#), tomorrow, **Tuesday February 4th, 2025**, grade 4, 5 & 6 students who still have not updated their immunization record on file at the health unit to comply with the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) **will be suspended from school.**

Suspension orders were mailed home to families the week of January 6th. Families received up to three notices from the health unit over the past year prior to being issued a suspension order, providing them lots of time to respond. Principals were provided with the list of students in their school eligible for suspension and have been following up with families for the last two weeks encouraging them to act as soon as possible. The health unit has been offering clinics including evening appointments and walk in capacity for families over the last month. Our goal is always to work with families and schools so that children do not miss time away from school, but unfortunately despite these efforts we still have a large number of students who will unfortunately be suspended.

We recognize this is going to result in additional pressure on primary care over the coming days, as families will be following up to obtain vaccination dates from their records in your office, and/or to have their children receive missing vaccines.

Key Messages for Primary Care Providers:

- Parents must report their child's immunization information to the health unit. If the child has received the vaccines noted on the letter, parents need to report this information to public health online 24/7 at www.smdhu.org/immsonline or by calling 705-721-7520 Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
- If the family has responded to the suspension order but they remain on their school's suspension list it means that something is still missing from their record on file at the health unit and there is a need to bring their record up to date according to ISPA. The order notes which antigens are missing.
- If a parent has chosen not to vaccinate their child, they need to contact the health unit to complete the affidavit process which includes viewing a Ministry education video and completing a Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief form which they must have notarized.
- If a student cannot receive a vaccine for a medical reason, a medical exemption form with an effective time period must be completed by a physician or nurse practitioner and submitted to the health unit.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

