**Newsletter Inserts for Catholic Elementary Schools - Immunization**

**Grade 7 Immunization Program (Insert in Sept)**

Nurses will visit the school twice to offer all grade 7 students the following vaccines:

* Fall: Hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B) # 1, Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) # 1 & Meningococcal vaccine (Men-C-ACYW)
* Spring: Hep B # 2 & HPV # 2.

While all three vaccines are strongly recommended, Men-C-ACYW vaccine is required by law, under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), for school attendance. In regards to the HPV vaccine, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario emphasizes that parents have the final decision on whether or not their children should receive this vaccine, and encourages parents to seek information to make an informed decision.

More information will be sent home this fall for review by the parent and student. The consent form is to be signed by both the parent and student. **Consent forms must be returned** **to the school before the clinic date** **regardless of the decision for vaccination**. Unless cancelled in writing, this consent is valid until the series for each vaccine is completed.

For more information visit our [school immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/SchoolPrograms.aspx).

**Your Child’s Immunization Record (Insert in Oct/Nov)**

The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up to date immunization records for all students attending school. According to ISPA (2014), students are required to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

* Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough)
* Measles, Mumps and Rubella (must have two doses after the first birthday)
* Meningococcal Disease (must have one dose after the first birthday & Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7)
* Varicella (chickenpox) \*\*\*only required for those born 2010 and after.

The health unit **does not** receive immunization information directly from doctor’s offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

**What you can do:**

* **Check** Your child’s yellow immunization card
* **Contact** Your child’s health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations
* **Share** Go to [immsonline](http://www.smdhu.org/immsonline) to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to **705-726-3962.**

For more information visit our [school immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization.aspx).

**Spring Immunization Clinics (Insert Mar/Apr)**

Nurses from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will be in school in the spring providing dose 2 of the Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines to Grade 7 students who provided consent in the fall. It is important that students complete their series of these vaccines to provide the best protection. Consent forms and fact sheets sent home in the fall of Grade 7 are still valid for these clinics.

For more information visit our [school immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/SchoolPrograms.aspx).

**Missed a Dose? (Insert in June)**

Nurses from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit offered immunization clinics twice during this school year. Did your child miss a clinic? If yes, contact the health unit to make a plan to get those missed vaccines. While all three vaccines are strongly recommended, Men-C-ACYW vaccine that protects against meningococcal disease is required by law, under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), for school attendance.

Call us to book an appointment at 705-721-7520. For more information visit our [school immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/SchoolPrograms.aspx).

**Newsletter Inserts for Catholic Secondary Schools - Immunization**

**Immunization Records**

The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up to date immunization records for all students attending school. According to the ISPA (2014), students currently in high school are required to be vaccinated against:

* Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough) - booster required between 14-16 years old
* Measles, Mumps and Rubella - must have two doses after the first birthday
* Meningococcal Disease - must have one dose after the first birthday & Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7.

The health unit **does not** receive immunization information directly from doctor’s offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

If your child’s immunization record on file with the health unit is not up to date, they may be suspended from school.

**What you can do:**

* **Check –** Your child’syellow immunization card
* **Contact –** Your child’shealth-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations
* **Share –** Go to [immsonline](http://www.smdhu.org/immsonline) to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to **705-726-3962.**

For more information visit our [school immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization.aspx).

**HPV Vaccine**

For students currently in high school who chose not to receive or did not complete the HPV vaccine series offered in Grade 7 or 8, they can continue to do so free until August 31st of their graduating year from Grade 12. The HPV vaccine is available by appointment at our health unit clinics. The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario emphasizes that parents have the final decision on whether or not their daughters will be vaccinated, and encourage parents to seek information to help them with making an informed decision.

To book an appointment, or to speak to a nurse about the benefits of HPV immunization, call 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. For more information visit our [school immunization page](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization.aspx).

**High School Immunization Records**

* Is your child graduating this year?
* Are your child’s immunizations up to date?

Many university and college programs, workplaces or volunteer programs require proof of immunizations.

**What you can do:**

* **Check –** Your child’syouryellow immunization card
* **Contact –** Your child’syourhealth-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations
* **Request –** Your child’s record from the health unit through *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.