

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Vaccines are a safe, effective way to protect your child from potentially serious infectious diseases.

While immunization rates remain high in Canada, many students fell behind on routine immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has opened the door to a [potential resurgence](#) of some vaccine-preventable diseases.

Grey Bruce Public Health has already seen noteworthy cases of vaccine-preventable diseases in neighbouring Health Units. For instance, both Huron-Perth and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health reported in March higher-than-normal pertussis cases among children. Toronto and Middlesex-London health units both investigated single travel-related cases of measles in 2023.

**As we approach the summer break, Grey Bruce Public Health is urging parents to ensure their children are up to date on all routine, publicly funded immunizations as soon as possible.**

Doing so will help to prevent vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks this summer, ensure your child has a safe and healthy break, and is ready for school in the fall.

[Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#) outlines the immunizations that are available through the province's free immunization program. Unless your child has a valid exemption, they must be immunized against the following diseases to attend primary and secondary school:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Meningitis (meningococcal disease)
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Chickenpox (if born in 2010 or later).

The [Immunization of School Pupils Act](#) mandates Public Health Units to maintain and review immunization records for every student attending school within their jurisdiction and enforce a suspension for students with incomplete immunization information or who have not received a required immunization.

GBPH intends to begin this suspension process in the new school year.

**If your child is up to date on all required immunizations, please ensure their immunization record with Public Health is also updated.** Parents/guardians must report immunization information to Public Health.

To access and update your child's immunization information, you can use the online ICON tool, available at the following link: [ICON Link](#). GBPH has developed a [guide on using ICON](#).

*A healthier future for all.*

If your child requires one or more routine immunizations, they are available through Health Care Providers and at Public Health's community clinics. A calendar of upcoming community clinics is available at the following link: [Clinic Calendar](#).

For additional information, please email GBPH's Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team at [immunization@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:immunization@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca) or call 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 and Press 2.

Yours truly,

Grey Bruce Public Health,  
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team.