

**November 15, 2022**

**To:** Parents and/or Guardians of Grade 7 to 8 Students

**From:** Ottawa Public Health

**Subject:** 2022-2023 High School Catchup Vaccination Clinics

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will soon be providing vaccine catch-up clinics for students in grade 9 to 12 at your child's school. OPH hopes to be able to vaccinate eligible grade 7 and 8 students who may not have been able to access these vaccines at their regular Grade 7 and 8 school vaccination clinics, and who cannot access them through other services.

**What?** OPH is organizing catch-up vaccination clinics for grades 9 to 12 at your child's school (separate from the grade 7 and 8 school vaccination clinics). The hope is to also provide a catchup opportunity for Grade 7 and 8 students.

**Why?** Due to disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, some students may have missed the opportunity to receive their Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-135, HPV-9 (Human Papillomavirus), and Hepatitis B vaccines. OPH will hold catch-up vaccination clinics in schools for grade 9 to 12 students to make sure they are caught up on their vaccines.

**When?** We will offer an in-school clinic during the late Fall and Winter. For the specific dates for your child's school clinic, please visit our website [Parenting in Ottawa](#). Your school will also be sending out communications about the exact date(s) of the clinic.

**Who?** If your child missed the vaccines at the regular grade 7 and 8 fall clinic or could not get the vaccine from their health care provider, please have them present to this catchup clinic. There will be dedicated times for each grade which will be communicated to staff and students prior to the clinic day.

**Now what?**

- These vaccines are publicly funded, so no payment is needed.
- To provide consent:
  - Please read about the [vaccines](#) with your child.
  - You will need to print and return the signed consent with your child on the day of the clinic (only if they missed the regular scheduled clinic for grade 7 and 8 students)
  - You and your child need to sign the consent form for EACH vaccine you want your child to get and indicate "no" for those you do not consent to. Speak with your child about the vaccines.
  - If you do not have a printer, please have your child pick up a paper consent at the main office of the school.

- If you have already signed a consent (less than two years ago), the consent is still valid, and you do not need to provide a new one. Please remind your child to come to the clinic to let us know, as we do not have a list of who has consents already on file. Our staff can assess electronic records on site once they arrive at the clinic.
- If you have given verbal consent to OPH over the phone, please ensure your child presents themselves to the clinic during the times shared with teachers/students on the day of.
- **If your child was present at their grade 7 and 8 school immunization clinic this fall, and received their vaccine(s), there is no further action needed.**

**Please note:** For safety, confidentiality, and efficiency, we are not able to accommodate parents who wish to remain with their child during immunization in our school clinics.

If you have questions about the vaccines or our catch-up clinics, please call Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 and ask to speak with a nurse.

Thank you for your ongoing support with OPH's various childhood vaccination programs.

Sincerely,

Ottawa Public Health Immunization Unit