

November 15, 2022

To: Parents and/or Guardians of Grade 9 to 12 Students

From: Ottawa Public Health

Subject: 2022-2023 High School Catchup Vaccination Clinics

What? Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is organizing a catch-up vaccine clinic at your child’s school.

Why? Due to disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, some students may have missed the opportunity to receive their Meningococcal-C-ACYW, HPV-9 (Human Papillomavirus), Hepatitis B, and Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) vaccines. To promote the safety of all school-aged children against preventable diseases, OPH will hold catch-up vaccination clinics in schools for grade 9 to 12 students.

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.

What vaccines are being offered?

Vaccine	How many doses?	Who is eligible?
Meningococcal (Menactra® or Nimenrix®)	1 dose	All grade 7 to 12 students *required as of grade 7
Human Papillomavirus (Gardasil® 9)	2 doses or 3 doses (depending on age)	All grade 7 to 12 students
Hepatitis B (Engerix®-B or Recombivax®)	2 doses or 3 doses (depending on age)	All grade 7 to 12 students
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) (Adacel® or Boostrix®)	1 dose	All students depending on last dose (*required 10 years after the dose that’s normally given between the ages of 4 and 6), and is normally given by a person’s health care provider.

How does my child get the vaccines?

- All students in grades 9-12 (students born in 2005-2008), should have received a package by email with consent forms and fact sheets for all four vaccines.
- These vaccines are publicly funded, so no payment is needed.
- Please print and return the signed consent with your child on the day of the clinic.
 - Speak with your child about the vaccines.

- 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.
- 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 are unsure, call Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 or visit our Parenting in Ottawa [Updating and Retrieving Immunizations webpage](#) to submit and/or inquire about your child’s immunization records. *Please note, if your child is 16 years of age or older, they need to provide verbal consent to OPH when a parent is calling OPH to discuss their vaccination record.*
- Nurses in the clinics will have access to a student's electronic immunization record. They can guide the student if a particular vaccine is not required despite parent consent, or if a student is missing a particular vaccine.

On the day of the school clinic, your child should:

- Eat a good breakfast.
- Bring an extra juice or snack to school.
- Wear short sleeves or a loose shirt so that the upper arm can be exposed easily, without undressing.
- Bring a mask to wear inside the clinic.
- Bring the consent form to school.

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