

Communicable Disease Program Information for School Principals



Reportable Diseases

Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990, schools are required to report designated reportable/communicable diseases to the Health Unit. This is to allow Health Unit staff to promptly investigate and implement measures to protect susceptible children. A copy of the list of reportable diseases is available at www.pcchu.ca. Health Unit staff will request the following when reporting a confirmed or suspect reportable disease:

- name of child;
- birth date;
- home telephone number;
- home address; and
- parent/guardian name.

For chickenpox, only the name and age of the child is requested.

Reporting Increases in Absenteeism

Student absenteeism can be used as an indicator of community-wide illness. We ask schools to call the Health Unit when absenteeism is greater than 15% for secondary schools or 10% for elementary schools due to illness. Health Unit staff will request the following when reporting increases in absenteeism:

- name of school;
- time period;
- common symptoms/conditions reported; and
- are the ill from a defined group (i.e. only one grade).

Health Unit staff will investigate and, if necessary, recommend control measures.

Immunization Process

Health Unit staff assess and maintain records of the immunization status of children attending all schools in accordance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990. To assist with this process, schools are asked to provide:

- demographic and immunization information on all new students;
- monthly transfers, admissions, and address changes; and
- annual student enrollment lists and student retirement lists.

Health Unit staff will mail two letters, 21 days apart to parent(s)/guardians of students 18 years of age or younger who are inadequately immunized or if no immunization information is available. If the Health Unit does not receive the required information within the time frame requested on the forms, a suspension order is issued. The suspension order is delivered to the principal of the school to give to the student. A copy of the order is also mailed to the parent. Students who are suspended are not permitted into the school until appropriate documentation is received. Health Unit staff will contact the school secretary to advise when a student, who was previously suspended, can return to school. If necessary, a suspension order will be re-issued every 20 days. This immunization process is conducted twice during the school year. Students who do not have a family physician can be immunized at the Health Unit Immunization Clinic by appointment (705)743-1000 ext. 301.

School Vaccine Clinics

Health Unit staff offer the following free vaccine clinics for eligible students:

Vaccine	Students	Doses	Approximate Months
Influenza	all	1	November
Hepatitis B	Grade 7	2	October and April
Meningococcal-C	Grade 7	1	October
Human Papillomavirus	Grade 8 females	3	October, November, April

Parents are always welcome to attend these clinics. Student volunteers help make these clinics run more efficiently. The clinic dates will be confirmed with each school in early September. Confirmed clinic dates are posted on www.pcchu.ca. Students who miss clinics can attend make-up clinics held at the Health Unit at 10 Hospital Drive, Peterborough, by appointment (705)743-1000. Health Unit staff will deliver the consent forms to schools prior to the clinic dates for distribution to the students.

Hand Hygiene

Health Unit Student Nurses offer hand hygiene presentations for all grades. A letter is sent to the school in September and/or in January with contact information to book the presentation.

For more information, go to www.pcchu.ca or call (705)743-1000.