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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Health Unit Introduces Texting Service for Teens Seeking Vaccine Information

Youth Encouraged to Send Texts to **705-957-6000**



Teens seeking information about vaccines can now text their questions to a public health nurse at the Peterborough County-City Health Unit for accurate answers.

The Health Unit launched their new texting line **705-957-6000** today as a way to increase vaccination rates among youth aged 12 to 16 years who often have many questions related to the free vaccines offered to them in schools.

“We are excited to offer this new service to teens who are often more comfortable texting than calling or emailing when they want more information about vaccines and the diseases they protect against,” said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health at the Health Unit. “This service will not only increase awareness about the vaccine program but provide accurate answers to questions from public health nurses about these vaccines, as well as provide referrals to other legitimate sources of online information or their health care provider.”

Students in Grade 7 are eligible to receive free vaccinations for Hepatitis B and Meningococcal disease, and Grade 8 girls can get their HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine at no charge. In addition, all 14-16 year olds are encouraged to get their booster shot for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis to protect them against these diseases throughout their lifespan.

This new service will be promoted on Facebook to local teens and also on the Health Unit’s website [www.pcchu.ca](http://www.pcchu.ca). Nurses will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer any vaccine-related question sent to the new texting line. Texts received after hours will receive a response during regular business hours. Standard messaging fees apply.

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**For further information, please contact:**

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