

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

Due to school closures this spring, there are Grade 7 and 9 students who have not received their vaccines. For your information, here is the directive at this time:

- Grade 7 or 9 students who missed their vaccines and that the school clinic took place are scheduled as of July 2020 in our Public Health offices.
- Grade 7 or 9 students who have not received their vaccines because the clinic has not taken place (schools closed due to COVID-19); vaccination will be scheduled for the next school year 2020-2021. These students, who will be in grades 8 and 10, will be added to our usual school clinics (grades 7 and 9).

PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION IS A CONDITION FOR ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

- **Why does New Brunswick have immunization requirements for admission to public schools?**
 - According to the *Public Health Act*, the school principal shall ensure that proof of immunization for children entering New Brunswick schools for the first time is obtained.
 - The goal of immunization is to minimize the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases and to ensure that students & staff are protected during an outbreak.
 - There are some children who are especially vulnerable to complications of vaccine preventable diseases due to the inability to receive vaccines or medical conditions that put them at increased risk (e.g. cancer).
- **Why is the collection of immunization records important for the school?**
 - The collection of immunization records of students is needed in order to assess the immunization status of students. For the protection of students and others, unimmunized or vulnerable students may need to be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.
 - When needed, it is also an opportunity to inform the parents to have their child's immunization status updated.
- **What vaccines do children require for school?**
 - Children must receive vaccines that protect against the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, rubella, mumps, varicella (chicken pox), and meningococcal (meningitis).

SCHOOL'S ROLE IN IMMUNIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY

- **What is Policy 706?**
 - Policy 706 is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy which applies to all New Brunswick public schools. The intent of this policy is to provide direction regarding the collection and management of immunization data as a condition for admission to the public school system.
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ed/pdf/K12/policiespolitiques/e/706A.pdf>
- **What is the school staffs' role?**
 - At registration, district/school staff inform parents that proof of immunization is required for school admission.
 - District/School staff are responsible for confirming that proof of immunization has been received.
 - Each month, the name of any students entering NB schools for the first time, and for whom immunization records have been submitted that month, must be reported to the local public health office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MISSING IMMUNIZATION RECORD

Student moved from another province or country

A parent can call the health care provider's office where the child received vaccines in the past (another province or country) to obtain a copy of the immunization record or give them consent to send a copy to their new health care provider.

Student's physician no longer practicing

A parent can call the NB College of Physicians & Surgeons at (506) 849-5050 or contact them at <https://www.cpsnb.org/> to find out if records have been sent to storage and if there is a cost to obtain a copy of the immunization record.

Parent does not have a current immunization record.

To obtain an immunization record, a parent needs to contact a health care provider:

- If the child received immunizations at a Public Health clinic, the parent can contact the local Public Health office.
- If the child was immunized by another health care provider (e.g. physician, nurse practitioner, nurse), the parent needs to contact them.

Student's record is lost

- If a parent is unable to locate an immunization record or obtain a copy from the health care provider, the child needs to be re-vaccinated to ensure protection against vaccine preventable diseases;
OR
- The parent can sign an exemption form and specify the reason for the objection and the vaccines he/she wishes to exempt.

USEFUL LINKS

Vitalité Health Network

- <http://www.vitalitenb.ca/en/points-service/public-health/immunization-vaccines/children-enteringschool>
- Key words for search: Vitalite/Immunization then click on "Children Entering School"

NB Routine Immunization Schedule

- <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/Immunization/RoutineImmunizationSchedule.pdf>

Canadian Provinces and Territories Immunization Schedules

- Vaccines and immunization schedules are slightly different across Canada (e.g. vaccines may be given at different ages). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/provincial-territorialimmunization-information.html>