



# Frequently asked questions from parents about immunizations for school

A message from  
Anglophone South School District,  
Francophone School District,  
Horizon Health Network Public Health and  
Vitalité Health Network

## Why are immunizations needed for my child to enter New Brunswick schools?

- To lessen the risk of diseases which vaccines can prevent (vaccine-preventable diseases)
- To protect the students & staff
  - There are some children/adults who cannot receive vaccines or who have health problems such as cancer that put them at high risk for vaccine-preventable disease. It is important that others receive the vaccines to protect them.

## Why is it important for the school to get a copy of immunization records?

- It is important for the school to keep a list of children who have not been immunized including those children whose parents have signed a medical exemption or provided a written objection to immunization to the school.
- Unimmunized students or students who have health issues that put them at high risk for vaccine-preventable disease may need to be kept out of school if an outbreak occurs for both their protection and the protection of others.

## What information is needed on the copy of my child's immunization record?

All the following information must be easy to read on the photocopies of the records:

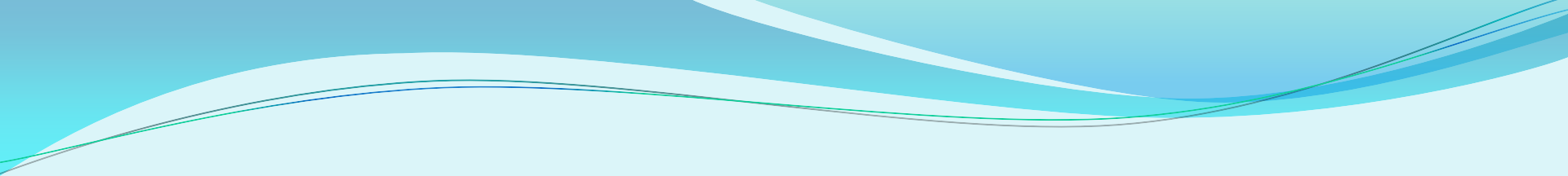
- Child's name; date of birth; Medicare number (all 3 are best but if the name and birth date are on the record and it is easy to read, then Public Health will look at it)
- Immunization provider's signatures (not always on the record. Public Health will look at it)
- Vaccines and dates of administration (must be easy to read)
- If the record is copied onto 2 pages, the child's name must be on both pages

## What vaccines does my child need for school?

- Proof of protection against the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, rubella, mumps, varicella (chicken pox), and meningococcal (meningitis)
- Must show proof of the right number of doses

## Where can I find the New Brunswick Immunization Schedule?

- The schedule can be found at the following link:
- <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/Immunization/RoutineImmunizationSchedule.pdf>
- Remember that adults need immunizations too. Check with your health care provider to see if you need immunization to protect your health.



Are the vaccines and immunization schedules the same in all Canadian provinces?

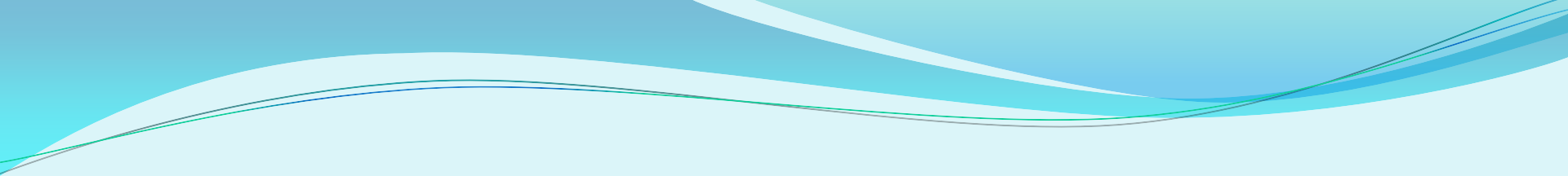
- No the schedules are not all the same and may be slightly different across Canada. Vaccines may be given at different ages.
- It is important to follow the schedule of the province that you live in.

## How do I get a copy of my child's immunization record?

To get an immunization record, you need to contact the health care provider who gave the immunizations:

- If your child got the immunizations at a Public Health clinic or in school, the parent can contact the local Public Health office.
- If your child was immunized by other health care providers (e.g. physician, nurse practitioner, nurse), **you need to contact them.**



- 
- **There is no central registry in New Brunswick.** This means the needles given to a person are not kept in one spot. The record is kept by the person who gave the needles.
  - **It is really important that you get a copy of your child's immunization record as well as your own and keep it in a safe place.**

## What can I do if my child's record is lost?

- If you are unable to find an immunization record or get a copy from the health care provider, it is recommended that your child be re-immunized to be sure that he/she is protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- You can sign a form called an exemption form and make note of the reason and the vaccines that you do not want your child to have.

## What does it mean if I sign an exemption form?

- It means that the school will no longer ask you for proof of immunization.
- Without proof, Public Health does not know if your child is fully protected.
- Therefore, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at your child's school, you may be asked that your child not attend school while there is an outbreak.

How do I get my child's immunization record after moving from another province or country?

- Get a copy of your child's immunization record from whoever gave your child his/her needles in the other province or country or give them consent to send a copy to your new health care provider.

## How do I get a copy of my child's immunization record when the family physician is no longer practicing?

- You can call the New Brunswick College of Physicians & Surgeons at 849-5050 to obtain an address or telephone number to locate the files.
- You can also go to their website to contact them by e-mail <https://www.cpsnb.org/>.
- There may be a cost to get health records. For example, there is a fee for health files that were sent to an out-of-province storage location such as DOCUdavit Solutions Inc.



What if I am still having trouble to get a record?

- Contact your local Public Health office to discuss with the Public Health nurse

## What if I do not want my child immunized?

- You will be asked to discuss the benefits of immunization and the risks of not vaccinating with your health care provider or Public Health nurse.
- You will be told that your child might not be allowed in school especially if there is an outbreak of disease.
- If you choose to **not** immunize your child, you will be asked to sign the exemption form.

## What is the preschool booster?

- This vaccine is a booster to the vaccines your child received at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months.
- The preschool booster provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria, polio, and pertussis (whooping cough).



## What age is my child expected to have the preschool booster?

- The preschool booster should be given at 4 years of age in New Brunswick (if your child received all vaccines on time).
- If a copy of your child's immunization record was given to the school before he/she was 4 years of age, such as the copy you gave at registration, you will need to pass in an updated record which includes proof of the preschool booster.

# Proof of the 4 Year Booster





# **School's Role in Immunizations for School Entry**

## What is Policy 706?

- Policy 706 is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy for all New Brunswick public schools.
- It gives direction on the immunization process as a condition for admission to the public school system.

## What is the school staffs' role?

- To inform parents that proof of immunization is required for school admission.
- To confirm that proof of immunization has been received.
- Each month, report to the local Public Health office, the name of any students entering New Brunswick schools for the first time, and for whom immunization records have been sent in for that month

## A message from the Communicable Disease Program

- Public Health should be called if you have been told that your child has a possible communicable disease such as Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, E-coli, Chickenpox
- Public Health investigates these types of reportable infections and can provide advice to the school and to you.

## A message from Communicable Disease Program

- To contact Public Health call Public Health's Communicable Disease line
- The school reports absenteeism to Public Health that is more than 10% and related to influenza-like illness
- i.e. Fever **and** cough with one or more of the following symptoms: sore throat, aching joints and/or aching muscles
- Your child should stay home from school if he or she has these symptoms

## A message from Communicable Disease (CD) Program

- A great source for communicable disease information is on the [GNB website](#)



## A message from Health Inspection





# Together-We-Can



I can do things you cannot,  
you can do things I cannot;  
together we can do great  
things.

- Mother Teresa

From Google Images

From Public Health

**WE JUST WANT TO SAY...**

**THANK YOU!**