

Sept 5, 2023

Dear Parent or Caregiver of a Grade 7 Student,

This fall, the Brant County Health Unit will be at your child's school offering free vaccinations to Grade 7 students for hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningitis (Men C-ACYW-135).

To find out when we will be at your child's school, visit www.bchu.org/SchoolClinics.

Please complete the following School Vaccination Form to let us know if you DO or DO NOT want your child to receive these vaccines during the school clinic: www.bchu.org/SchoolVaccinationConsent. A form needs to be submitted for every registered student, please ensure you complete the form as soon as this letter is received (and no later than 1 week before your school's scheduled clinic).

Please note, when providing consent, you are consenting to the full vaccine series. The meningitis vaccine requires only one dose, while the hepatitis B and HPV vaccines require two doses, 6 months apart - Brant County Health Unit will be returning to your child's school in the spring to provide the second dose.

These vaccines greatly reduce the risk of your child getting sick with these diseases and, in the case of HPV, can prevent cervical cancer as well as certain types of head and neck cancers. They are safe, effective, and recommended as part of Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule. The meningitis vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135) is different than the meningitis vaccination routinely provided at one year of age and is required by law for all children, Grade 7 and older, attending school in Ontario, unless otherwise exempted.

For more information on each vaccine, please review the vaccine fact sheets on our website as follows:

Hepatitis B: www.bchu.org/HepB-FactSheet

HPV: www.bchu.org/HPV-FactSheet

Meningitis www.bchu.org/MenC-FactSheet

Please note, if your child has received or is planning to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster this fall, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has determined that COVID-19 vaccines may be administered at any time before, any time after, or at the same time as a non-COVID-19 vaccine(s). This includes the vaccines BCHU will be offering during these school clinics. Please note BCHU will **not** be providing the COVID-19 vaccine during these clinics. To arrange a COVID-19 vaccine for your child, you may visit www.bchu.org/COVID19Vaccines.

If your child is not attending school in person or will be absent on the scheduled clinic date, vaccinations can be received at the Brant County Health Unit by appointment. Please contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 to schedule this visit. If you wish for your child to get vaccinated by a family doctor, please contact their office directly.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bchu.org or contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rebecca Comley
Medical Officer of Health