

Sept 5, 2023

Dear Parent or Caregiver of a Grade 8 Student,

This fall, the Brant County Health Unit will be returning to your child's school to offer publicly funded hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningitis (Men C-ACYW-135) vaccinations to Grade 7 students. The Brant County Health Unit recognizes some Grade 8 students may have missed these school vaccines in Grade 7. Your Grade 8 child may still receive these vaccines for free and can be included in this vaccination clinic if they have not yet received a first dose or are due or overdue for a second dose of any of the above vaccines.

If you previously provided consent for your child to receive these vaccines during our school-based clinics last year or during a clinic at the health unit, this consent is still valid. You are not required to provide consent again.

If you have not previously provided consent but would like your child to receive these vaccines at the school clinic, please complete the School Vaccine Consent Form: www.bchu.org/SchoolVaccinationConsent.

Please contact BCHU Vaccine Preventable Disease program at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 to speak to a nurse if:

- You are not sure if you previously provided consent for your child to receive these vaccines
- You previously provided consent for your child to receive these vaccines but would like to withdraw consent
- Your child received these vaccines at a family doctor's office (report at www.bchu.org/emunization)
- There has been any update in your child's health history since you provided consent
- Your child is not attending school in person or will be absent on the scheduled clinic date, but you would like to schedule an appt at BCHU to receive the vaccines (Please note, you can also follow up with your child's family doctor to receive these vaccines)

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

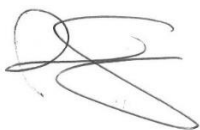
HPV: www.bchu.org/HPV-FactSheet

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). 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.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bchu.org or contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451. To find out when we will be at your child's school, please visit www.bchu.org/SchoolClinics.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rebecca Comley
Medical Officer of Health