

Memorandum

ATTENTION: Health Care Providers in Grey-Bruce

FROM: Grey Bruce Public Health

DATE: May 18, 2023

RE: GBPH's Summer Suspension Prevention Program



On behalf of Grey Bruce Public Health, I'd like to express our sincere appreciation for your ongoing collaboration and continued efforts to protect Grey-Bruce residents from vaccine-preventable diseases.

This memo is intended to provide you with information about GBPH's Suspension Prevention Program and how you can help to ensure your patients' immunization information with Public Health is up to date and adheres to the requirements of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).

The ISPA requires that all children and adolescents under the age of 18 attending elementary or secondary schools have an up-to-date immunization record **OR** a valid exemption with Public Health. The purpose of ISPA is to protect students from vaccine-preventable disease and provide rapid response during an outbreak in a school setting.

Each summer, Grey Bruce Public Health operates a Suspension Prevention Program, with a goal of reducing the number of students at risk of suspension ahead of the upcoming school year.

Beginning the first week of June 2023, parents/guardians of students who do not meet ISPA requirements – and are at risk of suspension – will receive notices from Public Health outlining which vaccines are needed. **This may generate a high volume of calls to your office.** Promptly sending Public Health the records of children immunized at your clinics may help to reduce the number of calls made to your office by parents.

To support ISPA activities, GBPH is asking health care providers to:

- Fax updated immunization records for students to GBPH (519-376-7782) following administration;
- Provide parents with a copy of their child's updated immunization record. **Health care providers are obligated to provide this service free of charge.**

Any ISPA-related questions can be directed to a Public Health Nurse in the Vaccine Preventable Disease program by calling 519-376-9420 ext. 3910 or emailing vpd@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

Your commitment and dedication in keeping the Grey-Bruce community well protected from vaccine preventable diseases have been instrumental in ensuring the safety of our community. We thank you for your hard work. We are fortunate to have health care providers who can go above and beyond in protecting our community. Your work is invaluable, and we are grateful for all that you do.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rim Zayed,
Public Health Physician Consultant,
Grey Bruce Public Health.**

A healthier future for all.

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