



Jan. 5, 2023

To: Primary Care Practitioners in Grey-Bruce

Grey Bruce Public Health sincerely appreciates and values the important, ongoing partnership between Primary Care Providers and Public Health, including our collaborative work to protect residents from vaccine-preventable diseases.

As you are aware, Public Health Units in Ontario are required, under the Immunization of School Pupils Act, to maintain the immunization records of all students, in all grades at public, private, and Catholic schools within their jurisdiction.

Ensuring these records in our provincial data base are up-to-date and accurate is of critical importance, particularly if an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease were to occur in a school or community setting. **Students with incomplete immunization information or a valid exemption on file may also face a school suspension.**

In Ontario, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child's immunization information at Public Health is up to date.

Throughout the early months of 2023, Grey Bruce Public Health will be undertaking a strategic awareness campaign aimed at encouraging parents to update their child's immunization information with Public Health and report recently administered vaccines.

We will be updating our website resources on publicly funded routine immunizations, and launching a social media campaign to urge parents and guardians to upload their children's immunization records on Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON). You may encounter an increased number of requests from parents for immunization records during this time.

As a primary care provider in Grey-Bruce, we appreciate and encourage your assistance to ensure Public Health is notified whenever a publicly funded vaccine is administered – whether your office reports it to Public Health directly or provides a record to parents for them to submit to us.

Maintaining high immunization rates to support community immunity is of extreme importance to Grey Bruce Public Health.

As part of our strategic, targeted approach to address the backlog of students requiring routine school vaccinations, immunization clinics for grade 7 to 12 students are planned between February and June 2023. By June 2023, all grade 7-12 students who missed a routine school vaccination (Men-C-ACYW135, HB, HPV and/or Tdap) due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have had the opportunity to receive their vaccination(s) at school since March 2022.

*A healthier future for all.*

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[www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

519-376-9420

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For any questions regarding publicly funded vaccines, or routine immunizations, please feel free to reach out to a Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) nurse at 519-371-3642 ext. 2.

Sincerely,

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