



Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**

For Health Care Professionals



ISPA Enforcement for the 2023-2024 School Year

To encourage vaccine uptake and ensure communities are safe from vaccine preventable diseases, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) continues to assess required immunizations for students enrolled in school. In November 2023, DRHD started sending Immunization Notices to students whose records are not up to date. **For the 2023-2024 school year, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* will be enforced to include non-punitive suspensions for those students who do not have an up-to-date immunization record.** Parents can submit immunization information for their children online through durham.ca/immunize.

If parents call inquiring about required vaccines

- Compare your record with the immunization letter from DRHD
- Provide the missing information or missing vaccines as needed
- Discuss a plan for the student to receive missing vaccines

If a student is overdue for multiple vaccines, all vaccines should be given. Administering multiple vaccines at one time is safe. Routine vaccines can be provided to students with minor illnesses, such as an upper respiratory tract infection, otitis media, mild gastrointestinal illness, or concurrent antibiotic therapy. Generally, if a patient is well enough to present for immunization in the outpatient setting, he/she is well enough to be immunized.

Please be aware of the following scenarios

- If Tdap-IPV 4-6-year booster was given before the 4th birthday, the student will require another dose.
- If MMR or Men-C-C were given before the 1st birthday, the student will require another dose.
- If live vaccines were given **too close together** (e.g., Varicella, MMR), a booster is required for the **2nd vaccine** given. For minimum intervals, refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#)
- Students in grades 7 to 12 require one dose of **Men-C-ACYW135** (e.g., Nimenrix®). Do **NOT** administer **Men-C-C** as a substitute for Men-C-ACYW135. Men-C-ACYW135 can be ordered using the form [School- Based Vaccine Batch Order Form](#) (or durham.ca/HCP, Forms, Order)

... over

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



- Please follow the catch-up schedules according to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario for students who initiated vaccines after one year of age.
- If a child cannot receive immunization(s) for medical reasons, download and complete the form [Statement of Medical Exemption - Immunization of School Pupils Act](#).

The following information is provided as a reference when providing vaccines containing diphtheria and pertussis to school-aged clients.

Should I give DTaP-IPV-Hib or Tdap-IPV to my school aged client?

Antigen levels

Antigen levels vary significantly for diphtheria and pertussis depending on which vaccine is given. The amount of antigen in the vaccine affects the immune response. Younger children require vaccines containing higher antigen levels to ensure adequate protection. In general, the capitalized letter (e.g., D) contains a larger amount of antigen than the lower-case letter (e.g., d)

Antigen active ingredient	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Pediace)l	Tdap-IPV (Adacel-Polio)
Diphtheria Toxoid	15 Lf (limit of flocculation)	2 Lf
Acellular Pertussis Toxoid	20 ug	2.5 ug

Who gets what?

- For children starting and completing primary series **before age 7**:
 - Ensure the child has a minimum of 3 valid **DTaP-IPV-Hib** (this is the **primary series**)
 - Give **Tdap-IPV** as a booster dose **AFTER** primary series is completed, **AND** if the client is **at least 4 years of age**
- For children starting immunization **prior to age 7 but completing after age 7**:
 - Give **DTaP-IPV-Hib** dose(s) as per recommended intervals until the child is 7 years of age. After age 7, give **Tdap-IPV** to complete their catch-up series
- For children starting immunization **on or after age 7**:
 - Use **Tdap-IPV** as catch-up

In summary, children under age 7 need 3 **larger** antigen doses of diphtheria and pertussis. Please review the student's record before reaching for Tdap-IPV. For minimum intervals and additional information, refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).

Additional Information

If you have any questions about what to administer after reviewing the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#), please contact your immunization nurse.

January 15, 2024