

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

September 2022

Eyes Ready for the School Year!

Proper vision is important for a child's movement, learning and social development. A full eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist) is the best way to ensure a child's eyes are healthy.

The Eye See...Eye Learn® program is for students in junior and senior kindergarten to have a full eye exam (covered by OHIP) with a participating optometrist. If a child needs glasses, they will receive a free pair donated by Plastic Plus, Modern Optical Canada and the participating optometrist. For children aged 19 and under, OHIP covers the cost of a complete annual eye exam and any follow-up assessments that may be required.

A yearly eye exam is recommended – [find an eye doctor near you](#).

For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>

Routine Vaccination and Immunizations



Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up-to-date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s) over the past two years, it is important to get them back on schedule. Connect with your health care provider to check which vaccine(s) your child may need. Learn more about [where to get your child vaccinated](#) and the [vaccination schedule for children in school](#) on our website.

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine (even from a health care provider), you can report it:

- Online
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 or
- Fax: 905-688-8225

*Please note that at this time, you **do not** need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.*

Grade 7 Immunization Campaign

Niagara Region Public Health is resuming the Grade 7 immunization campaign this school year! School-based vaccination clinics will begin in September for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#) (**not** including COVID-19 vaccine):

- Meningococcal
 - Single dose
 - [Required for school attendance](#) under the Immunization of School Pupils Act
- Hepatitis B (HB)
 - 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
 - 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history

Due to COVID-19 related disruptions, students in both grades 7 and 8 will bring home an information package and a consent form. **Whether or not students choose to be vaccinated at school, the consent form must be completed, signed by a parent/legal guardian and returned to school**. More information will be provided through your child's school about our clinics.

Niagara Parents – Back-to-School Facebook Series

Join [Niagara Parents](#) and some special guests as they chat about dental screenings in schools, cyber safety, consent and more to help your family prepare for the upcoming year. Check out the schedule and visit [Niagara Parents on Facebook](#) for more information.

Back-to-School Video Series Schedule						
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
Aug. 28	29 Dental Screenings in Schools	30	31	Sept. 1 Cyber Safety with NRPS	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Consent and the Impacts of Social Media on Students	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Healthy Relationships, Consent and Signs of Danger	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting the Curriculum to Home	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Times and additional information coming soon!

COVID-19 Updates

The COVID-19 vaccine is the best line of defense for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in schools and protecting our community. Children six months of age and older can get vaccinated at any [Niagara Region Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic](#). Public Health clinics are **currently accepting walk-ins** for any dose.

You can also get the COVID-19 vaccine from:

- [Participating pharmacies](#)
- Participating family doctor's offices
- Participating medical [walk-in clinics](#)
- [GO-VAXX buses](#) (five years of age and older)



If you or your child are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive on a PCR or rapid antigen test, please review our [guidance on self-isolation](#).

Helpful links and resources:

- [Schools, Child Care Centres, Licensed Home Child Care Programs, and Camps During COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](#)



Educational Resources

Teaching Tools and Supports

The School Health team has been updating the [Teaching Tools on Public Health website](#) to reflect the changes in the Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum (2019).

Updated resources include:

- Personal safety and injury prevention
- Substance use, addictions and related behaviours
- **NEW** – Supporting mental wellness

We are currently working on updating the Human Development and Sexual Health teaching tools; check our [website](#) for updates.