

Sept 6, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian of a Grade 7 Student,

This October, the Brant County Health Unit will be at your child's school offering free vaccinations to Grade 7 students for **hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningitis (Men C-ACYW-135)**.

These vaccines greatly reduce the risk of your child getting sick with these diseases and, in the case of HPV, can prevent certain types of head and neck cancers. They are safe, effective, and recommended as part of Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule. The meningitis vaccine is required by law for all children, Grade 7 and older, attending school in Ontario, unless otherwise exempted. This vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135) is different than the meningitis vaccination routinely provided at one year of age – the Grade 7 vaccine provides additional protection. To ensure that individuals remain safe from vaccine preventable diseases and to maintain a high level of community protection, it is important that routine vaccinations are maintained despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines can prevent illnesses that can lead to hospitalization and significant complications in individuals. Vaccines can also prevent outbreaks, which can impact communities and particularly affect more vulnerable populations.

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 visit the following link to provide your consent for Brant County Health Unit to administer each vaccination no later than Friday, September 30th, 2022: www.bchu.org/SchoolVaccinationConsent.

Please note, when providing consent, you are consenting to the full vaccine series. The meningitis vaccine requires only one dose, while the hepatitis B and HPV vaccines require two doses - Brant County Health Unit will be returning to your child's school in May to provide the second dose.

Please also note, we will be requiring each child to wear a mask within the immunization clinic space. Masks can be provided by BCHU as needed.

If your child has received or is planning to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please note 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). This includes the vaccines BCHU will be offering during these school clinics. Please note BCHU will **not** be offering the COVID-19 vaccine during these clinics. To arrange a COVID-19 vaccine for your child, you may visit www.bchu.org/COVID19Vaccines.

If your child is not attending school in person, vaccinations can be received at the Brant County Health Unit by appointment. Please contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 to schedule this visit. If you wish for your child to get vaccinated by a family doctor, please contact their office directly.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Rebecca Comley
Medical Officer of Health