

This is information from York Region Public Health (adapted by TDChristian for our context and your benefit) as it relates to its role in ensuring public health with regards to the immunization of students in York Region schools.

Re: Student immunizations

York Region Public Health is committed to improving the health of residents in our local communities by enforcing Ontario's *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada than any other health initiative in the last 50 years. Publicly funded immunization programs are extremely effective at preventing diseases that would otherwise cause illness and death. They not only protect the individuals being immunized, they also protect those who cannot be immunized such as infants, seniors and individuals with compromised immune systems.

Ontario's *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires families of school-aged children (7 to 17 years old) to provide York Region Public Health with proof of their child's immunization status for nine vaccine preventable diseases diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, meningococcal (for all students) and varicella (for students born in 2010 or after).

Students can be suspended from school (starting in April 2018) for up to 20 days if they do not have:

- required immunizations or a valid exemption, **and**
- complete immunization records at York Region Public Health

Schools are required to work with York Region Public Health annually to ensure our students, staff, families and communities are kept safe from harmful, vaccine-preventable diseases, while ensuring minimal disruption to school activities. For the 2017-18 school year, York Region Public Health is sending letters out to students with incomplete immunization records to advise them of what they need to do to update their records.

If your child has incomplete immunization records, we encourage you to update your child's information with York Region Public Health by:

- Visiting <https://eimmunization.york.ca>
- Faxing documents to 905-895-6066 or 1-866-258-2026
- Calling York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 73456

Students missing required vaccinations should see a physician or make an appointment to attend one of York Region Public Health's community immunization clinics. Book a York Region Public Health community immunization clinic appointment by calling 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73044, or visiting york.ca/immunizations and selecting *Community Immunization Clinics*.

If you have any questions about immunization or the act, please call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452, or go to york.ca/immunizations for more information.

Families wishing personal information or interaction can speak to someone from the York Region Public Health office at a booth set up from 3:15 to 8 p.m. during the first set of Learning Dialogues on Thurs., October 19, 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns about the TDChristian's role in this process, please contact Marg in our office. She will direct you to the proper person.

Thank you!