

Public Health
277 Victoria Street
5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1W2

April 29, 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Re: Vaccinations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Government of Ontario has extended the closure of schools until May 31, 2020. We appreciate that this is a challenging time for schools, staff, students and parents. Currently, public health nurses and other Toronto Public Health staff have been redeployed to our COVID-19 response in Toronto, and as a result, are unavailable to support schools until further notice.

Vaccinations at School Clinics

All public health immunization clinics, including school clinics, have been cancelled while schools are closed. School vaccinations for Grades 7 and 8 will resume when schools re-open. Students can complete their vaccinations for hepatitis B, human papillomavirus and meningococcal disease at that time without the need to re-start the vaccine series.

Immunization School Pupils Act

The assessment of student immunization records under the *Immunization School Pupils Act* has also been cancelled for the remainder of the school year.

Routine Vaccinations

Routine childhood vaccinations are an essential health service and are still available from health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines will provide protection from non-COVID-19 diseases when physical distancing measures, travel, and other restrictions are lifted. Students visiting their health care providers for scheduled or urgent visits, should not delay routine vaccinations.

Updates on COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation. Please visit toronto.ca/COVID19 to learn more about the current health situation, affected City services, economic supports, and [mental health](#) and other resources that may be helpful for your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen".

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health