

Immunization Of School Pupils Act (ISPA) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for Families

1. Why does the Health Unit review student immunization records?

- By law, the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) R.S.O.1990 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>) requires public health units to maintain and review immunization records for every student attending school in their region. The local Health Unit is also required to contact parents/legal guardians of students who have incomplete immunization records.
- To protect community health and well-being, public health units in Ontario are required to enforce school suspension on students who have not yet received mandated vaccines according to the ISPA. (https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/Publicly_Funded_ImmunizationSchedule.pdf).

2. Why did my child receive an immunization notice?

- The Health Unit has not yet received an immunization record showing the student has the required vaccines to attend school. This could be the case even if the child is up to date on their immunizations.
- Under the ISPA, parents/legal guardians are required to provide their local public health unit with immunization records. Health care providers and schools are not required to do this.
- A vaccine the student received may not meet the requirements of the Immunization of School Pupils Act or the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario (e.g., the vaccine was given too early).

3. My health care provider vaccinated my child. Don't they send the information to the Health Unit?

If your child received an immunization(s) from their health care provider, they need to be reported to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. Health care providers are not required to update this information with their local Health Unit. You can request that your health care provider send updated immunization records to the WECHU.

4. My family doesn't have a health care provider. What do I do?

- If your child is missing required vaccines, you can book an immunization appointment with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) (<https://www.wechu.org/getimmunized>) or call 519-258-2146, ext. 1222.
- Many local walk-in clinics also provide routine immunizations.
- You can also visit the WECHU's website (<https://www.wechu.org/your-health/find-doctor>) for information about finding a health care provider.

5. What if I choose not to immunize my child?

You must have a valid Conscience or Religious Belief or Medical exemption on file at the WECHU. Visit our website to learn about exemptions: <https://www.wechu.org/your-health/immunization> or contact the WECHU at 519-258-2146, ext. 1222.

6. What if my child has an exemption?

Your child should not have received a suspension order if you have a valid exemption on file with the WECHU. Please contact the WECHU at 519-258-2146, ext. 1222 to verify your child's records.

7. What happens if I do not provide the required information to the Health Unit?

- The deadline for **elementary** students (junior kindergarten to grade 8) to provide missing immunization information to the WECHU is **Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6 pm**. After the deadline, students whose immunizations records have not been updated with the WECHU will be suspended from school for up to 20 days starting on **Monday, March 3, 2025**.
- The deadline for **secondary** students (grades 9-12) to provide missing immunization information to the WECHU is **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6 pm**. After the deadline, students whose immunizations records have not been updated with the WECHU will be suspended from school for up to 20 days starting on **Monday, March 17, 2025**.
- Suspended students can return to school once their records are up to date with the WECHU, or they have submitted a valid exemption (Medical or Conscience or Religious Belief).

8. How do I report my child's vaccinations?

You can report your child's immunizations to the WECHU in the following ways:

- Online at <https://immune.wechu.org/>
- Call the Health Unit at 519-258-2146 ext. 1222
- Fax the record or have your health care provider fax to 519-258-7288.
- In person at the Windsor office (1005 Ouellette Ave) or Leamington office (33 Princess St)

Note: you do not need to report your child's COVID-19 immunizations to the Health Unit.

9. What if my child's record is in another language?

If your child has an immunization record in a language other than English or French, please have the record translated and bring the translated record to the Health Unit. Here are some services that may help:

- Multicultural Council (MCC) of Windsor-Essex translates immunization records for a fee; this service takes between 4 to 6 weeks. A nurse practitioner from the MCC also provides student immunizations. For more information, visit <https://themcc.com/> or call 519-255-1127.
- New Canadians' Centre for Excellence translates immunization records for free; this service takes between 4 to 6 weeks. For more information, visit <https://www.ncceinc.org/> or call 519-258-4076.
- VON Immigrant Health Clinic provides free translation of immunization records that are in Latin letters or Arabic languages; this service takes about 1 to 2 weeks. Vaccines can be administered to students who are clients of their clinic. For more information, visit <https://von.ca/en/service-categories/health-community> or call 519-916-4370.

If have questions, contact cs@wechu.org or 519-258-2146 extension 1222. For more information about immunizations, visit www.wechu.org/your-health/immunization/your-childs-immunization-record.