

Hepatitis B & Meningococcal Vaccines

Checklist for grade 7 teachers

Annually, Toronto Public Health (TPH) offers grade 7 students the hepatitis B and meningococcal vaccines to protect against serious disease. Vaccination is not mandatory. However, students are encouraged to be immunized to protect themselves as they become adults.

Teachers have a vital role helping grade 7 students receive these free shots offered through school-based clinics. A series of steps are listed below for teachers to help prepare students for these clinics.

Check the dates of your school's vaccination clinics.

Two immunization clinics run by Toronto Public Health Nurses will be held at each school, at least four months apart.

Hand out the fact sheets and consent forms in this package to your students on the first day of school. Note: Extra copies and translated versions of the fact sheets and consent forms are available in the school office or on the TPH website:

<http://www.toronto.ca/health>

Show the "Take Your Best Shot" DVD when you provide the fact sheets and consents to students. This fast-paced 3.5 minute DVD provides the rationale for why the hepatitis B and meningococcal vaccinations are important to good health.

"Take Your Best Shot" speaks directly to grade 7 students about:

- The risks of hepatitis B and meningococcal disease
- How students can be protected through vaccination
- What actions students need to take to receive the vaccines
- Answers to questions students have about these vaccinations

Copies of the DVD are kept in your school office or library for use on a DVD player.

Two versions of the video (one for each board) are posted on the TPH website for use on a computer through the internet.

For best results, view this DVD on a lap-top, flat screen computer or on current TV /DVD equipment. Access the video on the internet at <http://www.toronto.ca/health> .

Contact Santa Adamo (416) 338-1331 if you need a copy of the DVD for your school or if you experience difficulties showing the DVD in your classroom.

Review the DVD script, backgrounder and “questions students commonly ask” found in this package.

Find additional classroom activities on the TPH website

<http://www.toronto.ca/health> .

Remind students to return their signed consent forms within the first week of school. Students should return a consent form even if they were previously immunized or their parent / legal guardian does not want their child vaccinated. Consent forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Take all returned consent forms to the office in the package provided. Please include a “boxed” class list along with the returned students’ consent forms. An immunization nurse will collect and review these in September and may provide additional consent forms for those not returned.

On the day before the clinic:

- i. Remind students to eat a nutritional breakfast on clinic day and to wear short-sleeved shirts.
- ii. Remind students who have not returned their signed consent forms to bring them in for the immunization clinic. (OHIP #'s are not mandatory to receive the vaccine).

On the day of the clinic:

- i. Bring an up to date class list and any additional consent forms to the clinic.
- ii. Please accompany and stay with your class at the clinic location. Students must sit down and wait 15 minutes in the recovery area after receiving the vaccine.
- iii. Students will be assessed by the nurse for allergy to the vaccines and other medical conditions that would not allow vaccination to occur.
- iv. Students will be reminded by the nurse to give their “Take home slip” to their parents. This serves as their immunization record for future reference.