

# Enhancing Immunization Coverage for Toronto's School-Aged Population

Board of Health

November 27, 2023

# 140 years of public health in Toronto

- Vaccination is a key public health function that prevents the spread of communicable diseases and chronic diseases like cancers
- Toronto Public Health (TPH) continues to help school-aged children catch up on vaccinations that were missed due to COVID-19
- **Thank you to TPH staff, City of Toronto staff and our partners who contributed greatly to vaccination efforts during the pandemic**



## **Student Immunization Program (SIP) for Grades 7/8**

- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Meningococcal vaccines

## **Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) assessment**

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Meningococcal Disease
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

- Interruptions of some public health, school and health care services contributed to delays in routine vaccinations
- Decreased in-person vaccination opportunities
- Vaccine uptake influenced by vaccine confidence and misinformation

# Current observations: lower vaccination rates for most routine child and youth vaccines in Toronto

- Vaccine compliance rates in school-aged children and youth decreased during the pandemic
- Recovery of routine vaccine rates will take time, resources, and comprehensive approaches

Student Immunization Program (SIP) (Grade 7)		
	2017/2018	2022/2023
<b>Meningococcal</b>	86%	78%
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	77%	63%
<b>Human Papillomavirus</b>	66%	57%

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)		
	2017/2018	2022/2023
<b>Grade 2</b>	78%	43%
<b>Grade 11</b>	91%	23%
<b>Grade 12</b>	87%	22%

# School Immunization Program Vaccine Compliance - 2010 Birth Cohort: Public Elementary Schools, Toronto, 2023

Cohort	Hepatitis B	HPV	Meningococcal Disease
<i>2017/18 Gr 7 post-program compliance (August 2018)</i>	77.2%	65.8%	85.5%
<b>2010 cohort (current grade 8s): Median school level compliance<sup>1</sup> N=396 schools</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>75.6%</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of end of Sep 2023

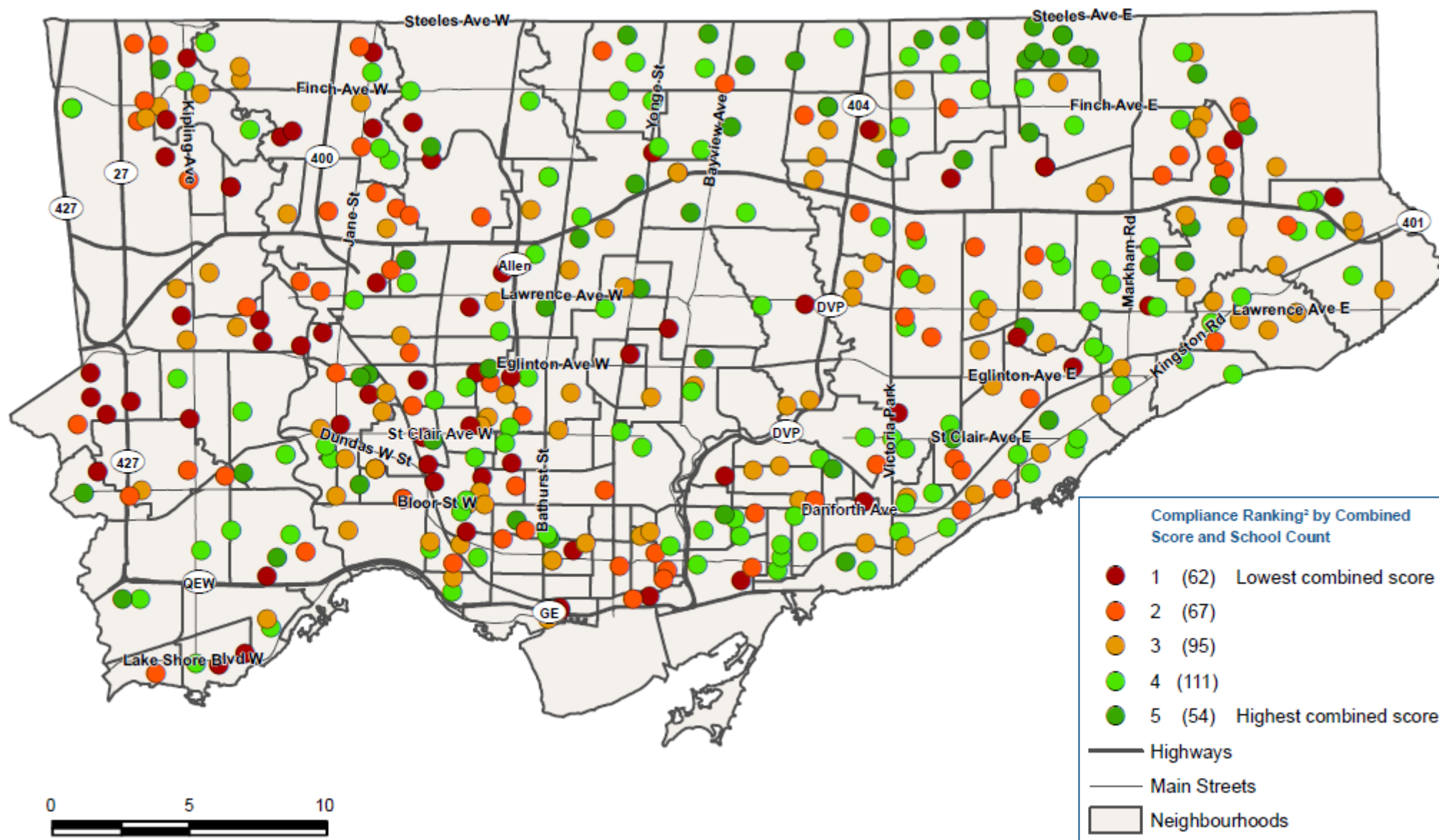
# School Immunization Program Vaccine Compliance - 2006-2008 Birth Cohorts: Public Secondary Schools, Toronto, 2023

Cohort	Hepatitis B	HPV	Meningococcal Disease
<b>2006-2008 cohorts (current grades 10-12): Median school level compliance<sup>1</sup> N=146 schools</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>
2008 birth cohort compliance (grade 10) <sup>2</sup>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>61.4%</b>
2007 birth cohort compliance (grade 11) <sup>2</sup>	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>81.3%</b>
2006 birth cohort compliance (grade 12) <sup>2</sup>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>68.8%</b>	<b>86.8%</b>

<sup>1</sup> As of end of Sep 2023

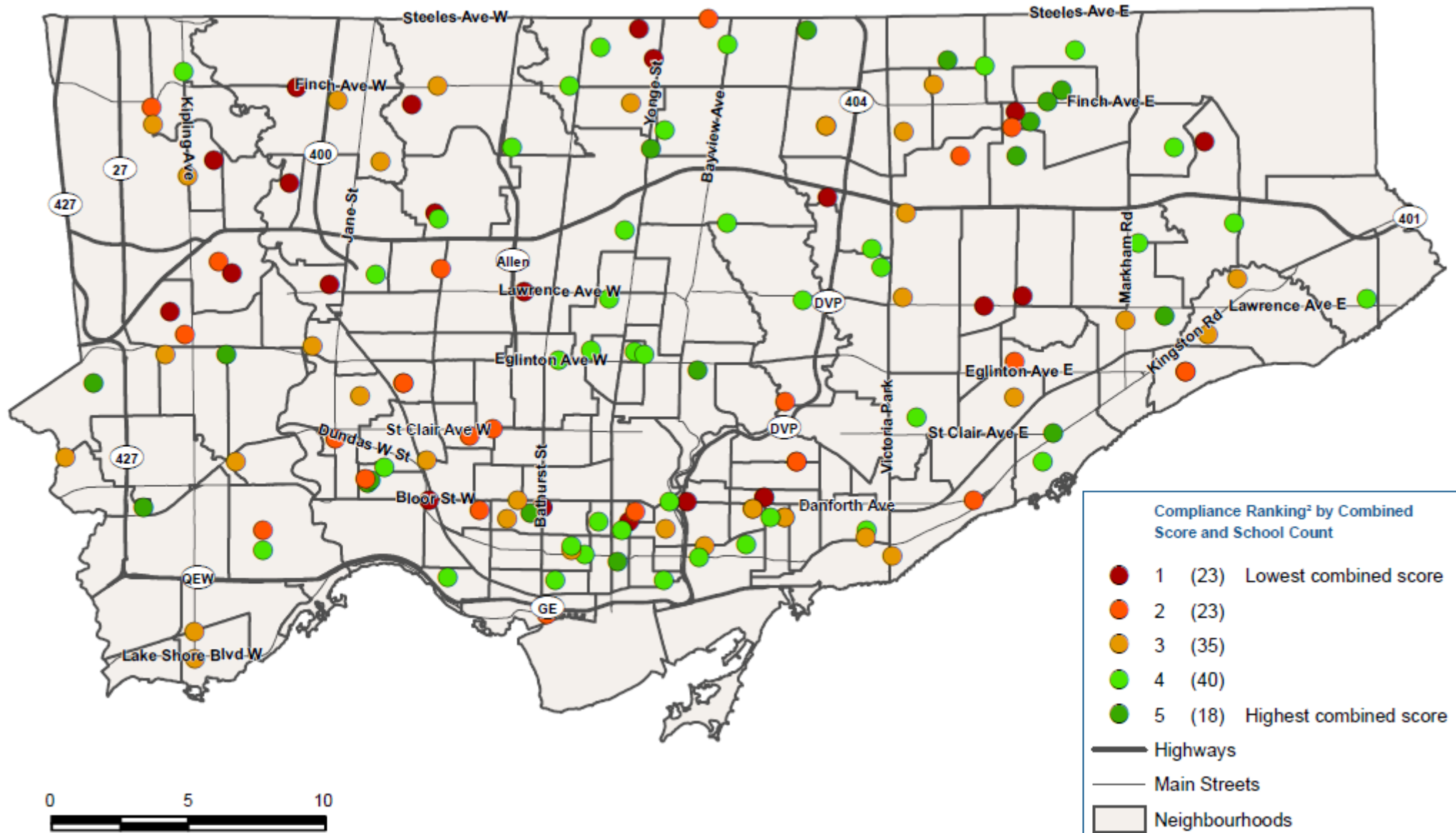
<sup>2</sup> As of end of Oct 2023

# Elementary Schools – Combined vaccine compliance for all 3 vaccines by school (2010 birth cohort): Toronto, 2023





# Secondary Schools – Combined vaccine compliance for all 3 vaccines by school (2006-2008 birth cohorts): Toronto, 2023



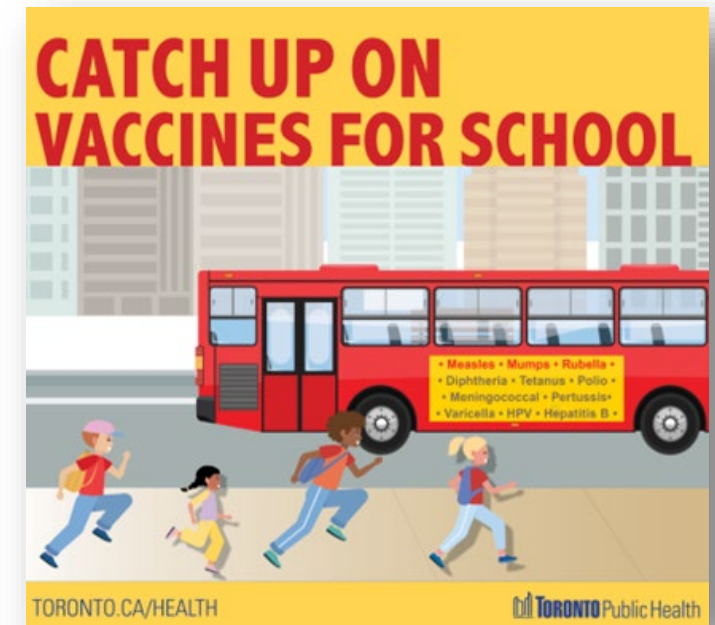
# Current child and youth vaccine access

Current SIP vaccine access			Current ISPA vaccine access		
Schools	TPH fixed site clinics	Primary care settings	Schools	TPH fixed site clinics	Primary care settings
TPH Grade 7 clinics + catch-up opportunities for Grade 8 students	Catch-up opportunities for Grade 7-12  <i>until December 2023</i>	Catch-up opportunities for Grades 7-12  primary care providers can order vaccines from TPH	TPH Grade 7/8 school clinics for Meningococcal vaccine	Catch-up opportunities for all ISPA vaccines for Grades 1-12  <i>until December 2023</i>	Primary care providers traditionally immunize children with these vaccines during routine care

**TPH fixed-site clinics will close mid-December 2023**


# Vaccine catch-up capacity needed

- Increasing vaccination capacity and assessment is required to increase vaccine coverage, close gaps, and prevent outbreaks
- COVID-19 pandemic experience highlighted the value of promoting community access and vaccine confidence
- Toronto Public Health fixed site clinics have been vital to supporting vaccine catch-up efforts. The fixed site clinics are scheduled to end mid-December 2023 with the conclusion of their provincial funding



# Catch-up capacity needed to increase vaccine uptake & decrease potential school suspensions

- **Resources and time required to improve vaccine coverage impacted from pandemic disruptions**
  - Enhanced staffing to promote, support and offer vaccinations at community locations in 2024
  - Partnerships with families and schools to build vaccine confidence and address misinformation
  - Equity-focused actions in schools with lower vaccine coverage


Toronto Public Health  @TOPublicHealth · 1h

Get them back on track!


We're in schools across #Toronto, helping students in grades 7 & 8 get their lifesaving vaccines:

- ✓ Meningococcal
- ✓ Hep B
- ✓ HPV

Learn more: [toronto.ca/SchoolVaccines](https://toronto.ca/SchoolVaccines)



ALT  
toronto.ca/immunization

 Toronto Public Health

## The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health request the Ministry of Health to provide \$3.8 million in funding for Toronto Public Health to:
  - a. Address pandemic-induced immunization gaps in the Student Immunization Program (SIP) and the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) programs through clinics, and
  - b. Promote immunization catch-up to increase population-level protection for the communicable and chronic diseases addressed in these programs, and to mitigate lost learning opportunities under the ISPA.