



TPH School Mobile Clinic Frequently Asked Questions

Updated May 6, 2022

1. What services and programs are offered at the TPH School Mobile Clinics?

- Toronto Public Health (TPH) will be offering additional health supports and services for children and youth who may have missed these opportunities due to COVID 19 disruptions
- The mobile clinic will offer:
 - Dental and oral health screening
 - Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Meningococcal vaccines
 - COVID-19 vaccine

2. Who is eligible for the services offered at the TPH School Mobile Clinics?

- Students 5 years of age and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine
- Students in grade 7 to 12 are eligible for the Meningococcal ACYW135, Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines
- Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, the Meningococcal ACYW135, Hepatitis B and/or HPV vaccine(s)
- All students (elementary and secondary) are eligible for dental screening.


3. How can I receive these services, do I need to book an appointment?

- Students are highly encouraged to use the provided appointment booking link to schedule a vaccination appointment. Please note that walk-ins are accepted at school clinics, however those with booked vaccine appointments will be prioritized for their booked time slot.
- No appointment is required for dental screening.

4. Which schools will host a School Mobile Clinic?

- School Mobile Clinics will operate at various school sites.
- Information regarding School Mobile Clinics will be provided to you on an accompanying poster and letter.



- Visit the "[Find a Mobile Clinic](#)" page on the City of Toronto website. You can find upcoming school clinics by clicking this  icon pinned on the map to find out clinic details and the appointment booking link.

5. What are the hours for School Mobile Clinics?

- Hours will vary. Information on when the clinic will operate in your school and hours of operation will be provided on the accompanying poster and letter.

6. Can students from surrounding schools attend the School Mobile Clinic?

- During school instructional hours, only students at the host school can attend the clinic.
- Eligible students from surrounding schools can attend school clinics that extend beyond school hours and those that operate on a weekend.

7. How should students prepare for the clinic appointment?

- Please bring a health card and/or another form of identification
- For students interested in receiving a vaccination:
 - Please bring a copy of the student's immunization records and health card (if available).
 - Review the vaccine Fact Sheets that are provided in the student/parent package.
 - Print and fill-in the [School Immunization Consent Form](#) and/or [COVID-19 Vaccine Consent Form](#) for each student being immunized and note:
 - Students under 14 years of age require a signed consent from a parent/guardian.
 - Students 14 years and older can sign their own consent form.
 - It is recommended that students eat a snack before their appointment and wear a short sleeve shirt
 - As space is limited in the clinic, students under the age of 14 years should come to the clinic with just one parent/guardian.

8. Where can I find more information about the various services?

- For more information on Dental and Oral Health Services, please visit us [here](#).
- For more information on School Vaccination Program, please visit us [here](#).
- For more information on COVID-19 Vaccination, please visit us [here](#).



- For additional support, please call Toronto Public Health Hotline: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, 416-338-7600

Dental Screening:

1. What is a Dental and Oral Health Screening?

- Toronto Public Health provides annual dental screenings in local public and separate schools for children from Junior Kindergarten through to Grade 8. Parents are notified in advance of the screenings and are able to opt out if they do not want their child to be screened.
- The school screening programs do not replace a dental examination that is done by a dentist. In addition to detecting urgent and essential dental concerns, a screening can provide an early sign of possible problems that should be looked at more closely.

2. Are family members of students (or other individuals who are not students) eligible to receive Dental Screening services?

- TPH Dental and Oral Health staff will assess the eligibility of those interested in dental screening. They will provide information on dental supports and services in the community for those who are not eligible to participate in dental screening at the clinic.

3. What is the Dental Screening process?

The dental screening process is as follows:

- The school informs parents and students of the dates and time
- An oral health staff member does a brief visual inspection of the gums, teeth and mouth
- The staff can answer any questions the student might have, provide guidance on oral hygiene.
- Children identified with urgent needs will be followed up on and assisted in accessing the dental care needed.

4. What happens if the dental screening shows that the student has many caries (cavities)?

- If your child is identified as at risk for dental disease, you will be offered support, informed of the treatment needed, and referred to appropriate care. Families unable to pay for dental care may be eligible for services offered by TPH.



- If you have a family dentist and prefer to see them, you may make a follow up appointment with them.
- If you do not have a dentist, or are unable to pay for dental care, Toronto Public Health will assist in booking a follow up appointment at our clinics.

5. What is the referral process? Will we be referred to TPH dental clinics or a private dentist?

- If follow up care or urgent care is needed, Toronto Public Health can support you in arranging an appointment with a TPH Dentist if required
- You may also opt to receive dental care and follow-up from your own private dentist.

6. Is OHIP required to access the subsidized TPH dental programs/supports?

- The dental screening is offered to any child in Junior Kindergarten - Grade 8 unless the Parent/Guardian decided to opt out of screening. High school children will be offered a dental screening, however they can decide to opt out if they do not wish to participate.
- If there are urgent needs, then the oral health staff member will be assisting in accessing care regardless of OHIP.

7. What document(s) are provided to the student/parents for urgent inquiries?

- Prior to any dental screening, families will receive a Parent/Guardian information letter
- Following the screening process, families may receive a parent notification form if any treatment or follow up care is needed

School Immunization Program:

1. What are the School Immunization Program vaccines?

- The School Immunization Program vaccines are: Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), and Meningococcal vaccines.
- Under Ontario's Immunization of School Pupil Act (ISPA), all students are required to be up-to-date with Meningococcal vaccines or have a [valid exemption](#).
- Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines prevent cancers and are voluntary for school attendance.
- See [Hepatitis B](#) , [HPV](#) , and [Meningococcal-quadrivalent](#) Vaccine Fact Sheets for more information.



2. Can students still attend school without getting the SIP vaccines?

- Meningococcal vaccination is a requirement for school attendance. Students must be up-to-date with the meningococcal vaccine or have a valid exemption to avoid school suspension.
- Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines are highly recommended but are not mandatory for school attendance.

3. I do not know if my child has received these vaccines? How can I find out?

- Contact your healthcare provider to access your child's immunization records. If possible, bring your child's immunization records to the clinic. If the records are not in English, please provide a translated version.
- Our staff will determine if your child is up to date with their vaccinations or if additional doses are needed.
- If you do not have your child's immunization records, Toronto Public Health may have records of their previous immunization that can be checked.

4. Can students (or parents/guardians) select which vaccine(s) to receive?

- Yes. Each vaccine is dosed separately, so students (or their parents/guardians) can choose which of the vaccines to receive.

5. Can a 15 year old student sign the consent form?

- Yes. Students 14 years of age and older can sign their own consent form.

6. What are the common side effects of School Immunization Program vaccines?

- The vaccines are safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild. Common side-effects include pain and redness where the vaccine was given, headache, fever, dizziness, nausea or feeling faint shortly after receiving the vaccine.
- In rare cases, serious allergic reactions such as trouble breathing, rash, swelling in the throat and face may occur. Allergic reactions can be treated and are usually temporary. Public health nurses will observe students for 15 minutes after vaccination to watch for reactions.
- There are no long-term side-effects or chronic medical conditions associated with these vaccines.



7. My Grade 9 child missed a dose of Hepatitis B vaccine when he was in Grade 7. Does he need to restart the series?

- No. Your child will not need to restart the series. Toronto Public Health nurses will assess which dose(s) your child needs.

8. Can students who have had a previous allergic reaction to a vaccine be immunized at this clinic?

- No. Students who have had an allergic reaction to any vaccine in the past should contact their healthcare provider and should not book an appointment at the school clinic.

COVID-19 Vaccines:

1. What COVID-19 Vaccines are offered at the clinics?

- COVID-19 vaccines are approved in Canada for people 5 years old and older.
- Vaccines offered at the clinic include:
 - Pfizer-BioNTech
 - Moderna

2. How do the COVID-19 Vaccines work?

- COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune system to make antibodies that protect us from the COVID-19 virus. The vaccines do not stay in the body for a long time, do not contain the COVID-19 virus and cannot give us COVID-19. It takes at least two weeks after getting the vaccine to be protected.
- Most COVID-19 vaccines require two doses in a primary series, but people who have a weak immune system need three doses.
- Everyone aged 12 and older should get a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine as soon as they are eligible.

3. What are the common side effects of COVID-19 Vaccines?

- Some people may have side effects after vaccination- most are mild to moderate, and last one to three days. Side effects usually mean that the vaccine is working.
- Common side effects include: fever, headache, feeling tired, muscle aches, joint pain, chills, nausea/vomiting, and redness, pain, itching or swelling where the needle was given



4. What if I am experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, positive for COVID-19, or have been identified as a close contact of someone who has COVID-19?

- If you are experiencing fever or any COVID-19 symptoms, please wait until you are feeling better before getting vaccinated.
- If you are required to self-isolate because you tested positive or were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 – please reschedule your appointment for when your isolation period is over.