

School Immunization Program

Keeping children healthy and in school

March 2022

Vaccines Available

Meningococcal-ACYW to prevent meningitis
Human papillomavirus to prevent cancers
Hepatitis-B to prevent liver cancer
COVID-19 vaccines: first, second or booster doses

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:

Your child may be eligible for one or all of these vaccines. Get these vaccines for free at a Toronto Public Health Vaccination Clinic in Toronto.

Eligible Students

All students in **grades 7 and higher**, who did not receive any or all of these vaccines.

These vaccines will be available Tuesdays to Fridays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the City's vaccination clinics located at:

- Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St W, North Building, main floor
- Scarborough Clinic, 1940 Eglinton Ave East, 2nd floor
- Cloverdale Mall, 250 The East Mall
- Mitchell Field Community Centre, 89 Church Ave
- Woodbine Mall, 500 Rexdale Blvd

No walk-ins, make an appointment at www.tphBookings.ca/tph/studentvaccines

Meningococcal vaccination is a requirement for school attendance. Your child must be up-to-date with the meningococcal vaccine or have a valid exemption to avoid school suspension.

For information about these vaccines talk to your doctor or call us at 416-338-7600.

Sincerely,



Dr. Vinita Dubey, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health

PREVENT MENINGITIS

Meningococcal disease is very rare, but it can become life threatening quickly. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in teens and young adults. The bacteria infects the lining of the brain leading to strokes, hearing loss, seizures or blood infection. This vaccine may be needed for travel and/or postsecondary education.

Vaccine Benefits

The quadrivalent vaccine protects against four types of the meningococcal bacteria: A, C, Y, and W-135. The vaccine is 80 to 85% effective for teenagers. Vaccine effectiveness decreases over time. If it has been more than five years since your child's vaccination, a booster is recommended.

Trade Names of vaccines provided by Toronto Public Health

Nimenrix[®], Menactra[®], Menveo[®]

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks

The vaccine is safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild. Common side effects include pain and redness where the vaccine was given, headache, feeling tired or unwell for a short time 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. Please stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor for reactions. There are no long-term side effects associated with this vaccine.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine

This vaccine is not for individuals with allergies to the vaccine ingredients or has had a serious reaction to a previous vaccine (containing diphtheria or tetanus toxoid).

As a precaution, delay getting the vaccine if your child has a fever.

For Students that Received or are Planning to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, this vaccine.

PREVENT CANCERS

There are different types of human papillomavirus (HPV). Many people do not know they are infected and never develop symptoms. Human papillomavirus infections cause many cancers of the mouth, head and neck, cervix and genitals.

Vaccine Benefits

Gardasil®-9 vaccine is over 95% effective to protect against 9 types of human papillomavirus. The vaccine prevents infection against seven types of the virus which may lead to cancer and pre-cancerous cells and 2 types that cause warts.

Students under 15 years of age need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system or 15 years and older will need a third dose. Vaccinating with Gardasil®-9 will provide added protection even if your child has already received Gardasil®-4 or Cervarix®.

Trade Name of vaccine provided by Toronto Public Health

Gardasil®-9

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks

The vaccine is safe, effective and well tolerated. Reactions are usually mild. Common side effects include pain, swelling and redness where the vaccine was given, headache, fever, dizziness, nausea, sore throat 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. Please remain for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor for reactions. There are no long-term side effects or chronic medical conditions associated with this vaccine.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine

Anyone with allergies to vaccine ingredients such as yeast or alum should not receive the vaccine.

As a precaution, delay getting the vaccine if your child has a fever.

For Students that Received or are Planning to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, this vaccine.

PREVENT LIVER CANCER

The hepatitis B virus is spread by infected body fluids. This can include improper cleaning of spa, tattoo, medical and dental instruments. Many people with infection may not have symptoms and can continue to spread the infection to others. Some infections can cause permanent liver damage, cirrhosis and cancer. This vaccine is recommended before travel and for some career choices.

Vaccine Benefits

The vaccine is over 95% effective to prevent hepatitis B virus infection.

Students, ages 11 to 15 need 2 doses, given 6 months apart. Students with a weak immune system or ages 16 and older will need a third dose.

If your child has received the full hepatitis B vaccine series, even as an infant, there is no need to get the vaccine again.

Trade names of vaccines provided by Toronto Public Health

Recombivax HB® or Engerix®-B.

Other vaccines containing hepatitis B:

Twinrix®, Twinrix®Jr., INFANRIX hexa®

Vaccine Side Effects and Risks

The vaccine is 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. Please remain for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor for reactions. There are no long-term side effects associated with this vaccine.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine

Anyone with allergies to vaccine ingredients such as yeast, alum or latex (in Recombivax HB®) should not receive the vaccine.

As a precaution, delay getting the vaccine if your child has a fever.

For Students that Received or are Planning to Receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, this vaccine.

MAKING VACCINES EASIER

PLAN AHEAD



Talk to your child about the vaccination. Explore ways for staying calm such as visualizing a fun memory.

AT THE CLINIC



Take deep breaths and stay calm. Sit up during the needle. Use distraction such as music, electronic device.



Some students may feel faint after a needle, so sitting or lying down for 15 minutes may help.

AFTER THE CLINIC



Ask your child about the experience. Offer praise.

MONITOR FOR REACTIONS



For mild reactions such as fever, aches or pain, use acetaminophen or ibuprofen as directed by your doctor.

For serious reactions or if your child is feeling unwell, consult your doctor. Ask your doctor to report the reaction to **Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.**

MULTIPLE INJECTIONS

At the clinic, some students may receive up to three vaccines in one day.

Facts:

- It is safe to receive all three vaccines in one day
- Children tolerate multiple injections well
- It ensures your child is protected at the earliest age possible
- These vaccines are only free through Toronto Public Health
- Nurses will observe students for 15 minutes after vaccination to monitor reactions

