



Immunization Program Population Health Division

Durham Region Health Department
Health & Social Services Committee
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Immunization Program

Goal

- To reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases through immunization.

The [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#) outline the requirements for immunization including:

- Ensuring children have up-to-date immunizations.
- Ensuring access to provincially funded vaccines for eligible persons, including underserved and priority populations.
- Ensuring effective inventory management of provincially funded vaccines.
- Investigating adverse events following immunizations.
- Increasing public confidence in vaccines.



Immunization Programs and Services

- *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA)
- *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA)
- Vaccine Storage and Handling
- Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs)
- Immunization Clinics
- Vaccine Promotion



Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

- ISPA is provincial legislation that aims to increase the protection of students against vaccine preventable diseases. This legislation applies to all students attending schools within Ontario, under the age of 18.
- The Act allows for parents/guardians and students to pursue exemptions due to conscience/religious beliefs or for medical reasons.
- In 2024, we have fully enforced ISPA in all Grades in high schools and Grades 2, 5, and 6 in elementary schools.



Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA)

- CCEYA is provincial legislation that aims to increase the protection of children against vaccine preventable diseases in licensed child care settings.
- We are planning to enforce CCEYA this year.



Vaccine Storage and Handling

- The Immunization Program manages and distributes publicly funded vaccine to healthcare providers within Durham Region.
- Each year, we inspect more than **480** vaccine fridges storing publicly funded vaccine to ensure vaccine is stored correctly.
- Nurses respond to after hour fridge temperature alarms for Health Department vaccine fridges.



Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs)

- Any untoward medical occurrence in a vaccine recipient which follows immunization that cannot be clearly attributed to other causes.
- The Immunization Program investigates AEFIs and provides individualized vaccine recommendations to healthcare providers and clients.
- We completed **235** investigations from January to December 2023; this includes both COVID and non-COVID vaccines.



School Clinics

- We provide hepatitis B, meningococcal-C-ACYW-135 and human papillomavirus-9 (HPV9) vaccines to eligible Grade 7 and 8 students through immunization clinics in schools.
- During the fall campaign (Sep - Dec 2023) we followed up with 18,348 Grade 7 and 8 students, led **190** school clinics, provided **21,734** vaccines to 8,685 eligible students.



Catch-Up Clinics

- We offer routine immunization catch-up clinics for eligible residents at various locations across Durham Region.
- In 2023, **43** catch-up clinics were provided with **4,171** vaccines administered.
- To date in 2024, **41** catch-up clinics have been provided.



COVID Clinics

- In 2023, **169** community based COVID-19 clinics were provided by the Immunization Program, including **67** pop-up clinics to support identified priority populations; and **24** homebound clinics to support residents unable to leave home due to medical, physical, cognitive or psychosocial conditions.
- To date in 2024, we have provided **10** community and homebound clinics (**5** community and **5** homebound).



Vaccine Promotion

- Utilize social media platforms to promote immunizations and decrease vaccine hesitancy.
- Utilize durham.ca/health to provide up-to-date information about immunizations for both children and adults.
- Provide regular updates to healthcare providers to promote immunizations and communicate changes on publicly funded vaccine eligibility.



Challenges and Opportunities

- Higher demands for immunizations.
- Decrease or difficulty accessing primary care.
- Vaccine hesitancy.

The Immunization Program continues to modify and prioritize services to meet the increase in demand and to build public trust in the public's perceptions and view of vaccinations post-pandemic.



Thank you!



Leading the way to a healthier Durham | durham.ca/health

