Durham Region Health Department

FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals

ISPA Enforcement for the 2026-2027 School Year

To support vaccine uptake and ensure communities are safe from vaccine preventable diseases, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) will be mailing Immunization Notices and Suspension Orders to students who are overdue for vaccines required for school. **For the 2026-2027 school year, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* will be enforced with Secondary School students born in 2011-2009 (Grades 10 to 12), and Elementary School students born in 2021-2013 (Grades SK to 8).** Students with missing immunization information will be at risk of suspension from school attendance. Parents can submit immunization information for their children to DRHD online at durham.ca/immunize.

If parents are inquiring about required vaccines:

- Compare your record with the DRHD record on the student's Immunization Notice or Vaccine Follow-up Form (they should have received these forms from DRHD).
- Provide the missing immunization information or vaccines as needed.
- Discuss a plan for the student to receive missing vaccines.
- Remind parents to submit immunization updates for their children to DRHD online at durham.ca/immunize.

Scenarios to be aware of:

- If Tdap-IPV (4–6-year booster) was given **before the student's fourth birthday**, the student will require another dose.
- If MMR was given **before the student's first birthday**, the student will require another dose.
- If live vaccines were given **too close together** (e.g., Varicella, MMR), a booster is required for the **2nd vaccine** given. For minimum intervals, refer to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.
- Students in Grades 7 to 12 require **one dose** of Men-C-ACYW135.
- Any dose(s) of oral polio vaccine (OPV) received on or after April 1, 2016, should be considered invalid. These students may require an IPV to be up to date. Refer to Fax About…Recommendations for Children Previously Immunized with Oral Polio Vaccine.
- Follow the catch-up schedules according to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario for students who initiated vaccines after one year of age.
- If a child cannot receive immunization(s) for medical reasons, download and complete the Statement of Medical Exemption - Immunization of School Pupils Act form.

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DTaP-IPV-Hib or Tdap-IPV for school aged clients:

The following information can be used as a reference when providing vaccines containing diphtheria and pertussis to students.

Antigen levels:

Antigen levels vary significantly for diphtheria and pertussis depending on which vaccine is given. The amount of antigen in the vaccine affects the immune response. Younger children require vaccines containing higher antigen levels to ensure adequate protection. In general, the capitalized letter (e.g., D) contains a larger amount of antigen than the lower-case letter (e.g., d).

Antigen active ingredient	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Pentacel)	Tdap-IPV (Adacel-Polio)
Diphtheria Toxoid	15 Lf (limit of flocculation)	2 Lf
Acellular Pertussis Toxoid	20 ug	2.5 ug

Who gets what vaccine:

- For children starting and completing their primary series **before age 7**:
  - Ensure the child has a minimum of 3 valid **DTaP-IPV-Hib** (this is the **primary series)**.
  - Give **Tdap-IPV** as a booster dose **AFTER** primary series is completed, **AND** if the client is **at least 4 years of age**.
- For children starting immunization **before age 7 but completing after age 7**:
  - Give **DTaP-IPV-Hib** dose(s) as per recommended intervals, but once child reaches 7 years of age **switch over** to **Tdap-IPV** to complete their catch-up series.
- For children starting immunization **on or after age 7**:
  - Give **Tdap-IPV** to start and to complete their catch-up series.

Children under age 7 need 3 **larger** antigen doses of diphtheria and pertussis. Please review a client's record before administering Tdap-IPV. For minimum intervals and additional information, refer to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.

Additional Information:

If you have any questions about what to administer after reviewing the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario, please contact your immunization nurse.

November 17, 2026