



May 11, 2026

Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Deputy Premier of Ontario

Subject: Vaccination Reporting Process

Dear Minister Jones,

At the April 7th Board meeting of the Halton District School Board, Trustees unanimously voted in favour of the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones with a copy sent to the Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, the Premier, all MPPs, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and Halton Region Public Health regarding the cumbersome process by which vaccinations must be reported by parents/guardians to Public Health agencies across Ontario and its impact on student attendance. And that a review of this process be conducted with the goal of improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

Since 2023, Halton District School Board has worked with our local Public Health unit to enforce the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* each academic year. The purpose of the Act is to increase the protection of children at school, by ensuring children are immunized. The Board supports this very important work. Due to the lack of a centralized immunization information system and privacy legislation that prohibits health professionals from sharing a patient's vaccination information with Public Health, the current process for reporting vaccinations to Public Health, requires the parent/guardian of a child to report each vaccine their child receives.

At the start of this academic year, in Halton alone, the number of students with incomplete immunization records was 19,000. By March 19th that number was down to 8,600, after numerous personalized phone calls and emails from our diligent and dedicated staff as well as our Public Health partners. On March 31st 1,200 elementary students in the Halton District School Board received orders of suspension from Public Health.

This is not just happening in Halton; these suspensions are an annual occurrence that create undue stress for families, time spent away from classrooms for our students, and needless additional work hours for staff all across Ontario.

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In many cases the parent/guardian is unaware that the responsibility for reporting vaccinations falls on them, and doesn't know how to provide the required information. The result is that we have a labour intensive process for reporting their child's immunizations with extremely inconsistent adherence by parents/guardians.

Under the *Immunization of Pupils Act*, Public Health Units are responsible for ensuring compliance with immunization requirements, and may direct School Boards to suspend students whose records remain incomplete. Our principals, vice principals, youth settlement workers, and office staff work closely with Public Health to bring these numbers down as quickly as possible.

Access to centralized provincial and national immunization information systems are an essential tool to help us to ensure compliance with the Act and minimize disruption to students' learning. In December 2025, Halton Regional Council unanimously endorsed a [resolution](#) calling on the Provincial and Federal Governments to support improved vaccination coverage by strengthening data sharing across all levels of government and enabling better overall surveillance efforts including through implementing provincial and national immunization information systems.

Similarly, the [Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee](#) has strongly urged the Ontario Ministry of Health to develop and implement a provincial immunization registry and in his [2024 Annual Report](#), Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health identified the lack of a centralized provincial immunization information system as a key barrier to identifying and addressing immunization gaps in Ontario and recommended its implementation.

We fully support the purpose of the Act to ensure our schools are safe and vulnerable children who cannot be immunized are protected. We echo the calls of Halton Region, the Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee and the Chief Medical Officer Health, as a provincial immunization registry would reduce burdens on our families and school staff.

Let's work together to ensure our students are in the classroom, learning and achieving, instead of being at home because of a cumbersome reporting process.

Sincerely,

Amy Collard
Chair, Halton District School Board
Trustee, Burlington Ward 5

CC:
Premier of Ontario
Minister of Education
MPPs
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Boards
Halton Region Public Health