

2025-2026 Immunization of School Pupils Act

Vaccine Records Screening and Suspension Dates

This is an update on Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) Vaccine Program's work related to the enforcement of the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (1990)*. This work is important to protect the health of the community and prevent the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in schools.

The Immunization of School Pupils Act (1990) is an Ontario law that requires children under the age of 18 years attending school to have an up-to-date immunization record, or valid exemption, on file with their local public health unit for designated publicly funded childhood immunizations. Enforcement under this Act can include suspension from school for students who do not have an up-to-date vaccine record, or valid exemption on file.

If a student has outstanding vaccine records, parents/guardians and students will receive a screening letter informing that the student has an incomplete vaccine record and action is required to bring the student into compliance. Screening letters provide a report by date by which records or exemptions must be reported by. All students enrolled in the previous 2024/2025 school year would have already received a screening letter last school year and will receive another screening letter this November.

For the 2025/2026 school year, Hamilton Public Health Services will be enforcing the Immunization of School Pupils Act including suspension for all students **born between 2008 to 2011 (high school)** as well as those **born in 2012 (Schools A-L), 2013 to 2016, and 2020 (elementary school)**. Students born in these years who still do not have a valid vaccine record or exemption following the date specified in the screening letter will receive an order of suspension. The order will identify a suspension date as identified in the table below based on their school. The suspension period lasts for a maximum of 20 school days or until the parent/guardian or pupil can provide Hamilton Public Health with required vaccination records or a valid exemption.

Please note, that two of the three vaccines given in grade 7 (Hepatitis B and Human Papilloma Virus vaccines) are not for designated diseases requiring completed vaccination under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (1990)*.

The following tables identify the [schools impacted for each 2025/2026 Enforcement Wave](#):

Wave 1: N/A

Wave 2: (Elementary Schools)

Screening Letters Mailed	November 14, 2025	
Records Due	January 30, 2026	
Suspension Orders Mailed	Week of February 6, 2026	
Suspension List (Suspended Students) Provided to School	Week of February 6, 2026	
Suspension Date (maximum 20 school days)	Start: March 12, 2026 End: April 20, 2026	
Schools Impacted		
AM Cunningham Adelaide Hoodless Allan A Greenleaf Ancaster Meadow Balaclava Bellmoore Bennetto Billy Green Buchanan Park (JK-6) Cathy Wever Cecil B Stirling Central (JK-5) Chedoke Collegiate Avenue Cootes Paradise (JK-5) Dalewood (6-8) Dr J E Davey Dundana (JK-5) Dundas Central Earl Kitchener Eastdale Ecole Elementaire Michaelle Jean (1-8) Flamborough Centre Frank Panabaker North Frank Panabaker South Franklin Road Gatestone George L Armstrong Glenwood	Gordon Price Greensville Public Guy B Brown Helen Detwiler Hess Street Highview Hillcrest Holbrook (JK-6) Huntington Park James Macdonald (JK-6) Janet Lee Kanetskare (6-8) Lake Ave Lawfield Lincoln Alexander (JK-6) Lisgar Mary Hopkins (JK-5) Memorial City Millgrove (JK-5) Mount Albion Mount Hope Mountview (JK-6) Norwood Park (1-8) Parkdale (JK-5) Pauline Johnson Prince of Wales Queen Mary Queen Victoria Queensdale	R.A. Riddell Ray Lewis Richard Beasley (JK-5) Ridgemount Rockton School Rosedale (JK-5) Rousseau (JK-6) Shannen Koostachin Sir Wilfrid Laurier Sir William Osler South Meadow Spring Valley Strathcona (JK-5) Tapleystown Templemead Tiffany Hills Viola Desmond Viscount Montgomery W.H. Ballard Westview (6-8) Westwood (JK-5) Winona Yorkview (JK-5)

Wave 3: (Secondary Schools)

Screening Letters Mailed	November 14, 2025
Records Due	March 9, 2026
Suspension Orders Mailed	Week of March 16, 2026
Suspension List (Suspended Students) Provided to School	Week of March 16, 2026
Suspension Date (maximum 20 school days)	Start: April 21, 2026 End: May 19, 2026
Schools Impacted	
Bernie Custis Secondary School Dundas Valley Secondary School Nora Frances Henderson Secondary School Ancaster High Secondary School Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School Westmount Secondary School	Waterdown District Highschool Glendale Secondary School Sherwood Secondary School Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School Westdale Secondary School Saltfleet District High School

The remaining birth cohorts 2019 – 2017 and 2012 (Schools M – Z) will receive screening letters identifying missing vaccine records, but will not be considered for suspension orders during the 2025/2026 school year.

Principal/School Operator Responsibilities with Immunization of School Pupils Act Enforcement

On the date of suspension for their school, school principals will receive a secure file transmission which includes the blank order of suspension and the list of students who are not in compliance with the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* and have a suspension order issued. Do not give these documents to students. Copies of the orders have been mailed to each student's home address.

Upon receiving the list of noncompliant students', principals are required by the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* to enforce the Orders for Suspension. Please do not permit attendance of students with suspension orders starting on suspension day until you are notified by Public Health that the order for that student has been rescinded.

Rescinding of suspensions will happen in two separate approaches for 2025/2026 school year:

1. Student receives vaccine at Public Health Clinic
 - a. Students who attend a Public Health clinic during the suspension period will be provided with a Vaccine chit that can be provided to school for re-admittance to school. (An example of the chit will be provided with the Order of Suspension list.)
2. Student receives vaccine(s) from Health Care Provider or provides valid exemption.
 - a. Upon reporting the vaccine/exemption to Public Health, and after Hamilton Public Health Services can review and validate the provided records, we will communicate

directly with the student's school administration that their suspension has been rescinded and can be readmitted to school.

Ongoing Vaccine Records Screening in 2025/2026 by Hamilton Public Health

Hamilton Public Health is actively screening vaccine records in 2025/2026 for all students. Parents and guardians may receive requests for information regarding their child's vaccination status.

We understand that this process may prompt questions or necessitate further clarification.

We kindly ask that all parents and guardians direct their inquiries to Hamilton Public Health to receive the most accurate and up-to-date information. Additionally, we have prepared an FAQ document that addresses common questions and provides guidance on how to report vaccine records.

For detailed information and to address any concerns:

- **Contact Hamilton Public Health directly:**
 - Mail: P.O. Box 897, Hamilton ON, L8N 3P6
 - Phone: 905.540.5250
 - Email: vaccinerecords@hamilton.ca (no vaccine record reporting by email)
- **Refer to the attached FAQ document for further guidance.**
- **Additional resources:**
 - www.hamilton.ca/vaccines
 - www.hamilton.ca/schoolclinics

Public Health Services makes every effort to get vaccines to kids and families during this time, both through supporting primary care and our own clinics, so that suspensions can be prevented or kept as short as possible. To support students to ensure compliance with the Act, Hamilton Public Health Services has been engaging primary care providers locally on work related to the Immunization of School Pupils Act, including the suspension process, advising of the potential for patients to reach out seeking additional vaccinations, and the importance of parents and guardians reporting these vaccines to Public Health Services.

Secondary School & Catch up Clinics

Hamilton Public Health Services plans to attend most secondary schools in Hamilton during the months of January, February and March to offer opportunity for catch-up records assessment and vaccination. Public Health Services will increase the frequency of catch-up vaccination clinics in the days leading up to and during ISPA enforcement. This is to support those clients who may be at risk of being suspended from school and are unable to access vaccinations or are unattached to primary care. For further information on these clinics, visit: www.hamilton.ca/suspensionclinics

Secure File Sharing Implementation

Between Q4 2025 and Q1 2026, HPHS will implement Titan File, a secure and private file sharing application, to enhance the management and protection of sensitive information related to the



Hamilton

Vaccine Program

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Phone: 905.540.5250 Fax: 905.546.4841

www.hamilton.ca/vaccines

Immunization of School Pupils Act. This solution will streamline communication among authorized users, and safeguard confidential personal health information throughout the immunization screening and enforcement process. Individual communications will be sent to school principals regarding the onboarding and implementation of this new secure file sharing system.

We appreciate all that you do to create a safe and healthy environment for all students and community members, including work to prevent the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Bush PMP

Program Manager, Vaccine Inventory Program

City of Hamilton – Public Health Services