



September 16, 2020

Dear Administrators, teachers, parents and students:

Public Health Registered Nurses will be working in schools again to provide essential immunizations during the 2020-21 school year. We are committed to ensure that students are up to date with their immunizations, which will decrease the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in schools and communities. Although this year will be a challenging one during the COVID 19 Pandemic, we are available to support schools, parents and students.

We have developed a **tentative** timeline below for our school immunization program. We recognize these timelines may be affected by Coronavirus disease activity in the South Zone region during the year. The Pandemic affected our immunization programs last year, however most of the Gr.9 students received their routine vaccines.

In August, we called and texted the parent/guardian of students in Gr.9 (from 2019-20 school year) to book into a clinic at their local Public Health office for only those students we identified who missed their Gr.9 vaccines last year. Parents, if you are unsure if your child is up to date, please contact your local Public Health office to talk to the school nurse before booking an appointment.

Our first priority this year will be the re-immunization of the Gr.6 students from the 2019-20 school year who received only the first dose of Hepatitis B and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines. These students, now in Gr.7, will be immunized in school with the second dose of Hepatitis B and HPV vaccine. We will only immunize those students whom we already have consent for. If we do not have a consent, we will attempt to contact the parent/guardian in the next few months.

For students whom are extremely anxious, and for whom the parent does not want them immunized at school, we encourage parents to first phone the school nurse to discuss the options, and the nurse can offer an appointment at the Public Health office if needed-see our tentative plan for when we will begin these immunizations below.

**Tentative School Immunization program timeline:**

**SEPT 18, 2020 and after-** Gr. 10 students who missed receiving last year's Gr.9 vaccines can book at local Public Health office- call to talk with a nurse first if any questions before booking

**NOV-DEC 2020-** immunize Gr.7 students with second dose of vaccines to catch up those students from 2019-20 year, and consents for the 2020-21 current Gr.6 and 9 students will be sent home with students

**FEB-MAR. 2021-** immunize Gr.9 students with diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (whooping cough), and Meningococcal vaccine

**MAR 2021-** immunize Gr.6 students with the first dose of Hepatitis B and Human Papilloma Virus vaccines once our Gr.9 students are done

\*Second dose of Hepatitis B and HPV vaccine for Gr.6 students to be offered in the next school year of 2021-2022.

Students who are not up to date with their primary immunization series will be immunized as time permits during the 2020-21 school year. If consent for these immunizations was provided by parent/guardian last year, we will immunize the student. If we do not have a consent yet the school nurse will send a letter, consent forms and vaccine information home through the school. Please visit Immunize Alberta [www.immunizealberta.ca](http://www.immunizealberta.ca) to view the primary immunization schedule, and Gr. 6 & 9 immunization information and schedule.

Parent/guardian of home schooled, At home learning, and Alternate learning environment identified students can call their local Public Health office during the above noted timeline to check appointment availability.

Please also be aware that other zones in Alberta may have different immunization timelines based on their staffing availability and COVID disease activity in their area.

Lastly, for information on Coronavirus symptoms, and what to do if a student has any of those symptoms **please see the attached document** provided by the Government of Alberta “ Student Illness. If a student has COVID-19 symptoms”.

Thank you for your time and support!

Sincerely,

*Leanne*

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**Alberta Health Services**  
[www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)

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