

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 18, 2017
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Immunization of School Pupils Act Educational Requirement Amendment (BOH17035) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Laura Bourns (905) 546-2424, Ext. 3571
<b>SUBMITTED BY &amp; SIGNATURE :</b>	Michelle Baird Acting Director, Communicable Disease Control and Wellness Division Public Health Services Department

## Council Direction:

Not applicable

## Information:

In 2016, as part of Bill 87 the Protecting Patient Acts, the Ontario Government brought forward two amendments to the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA):

1. *Strengthen requirements for school vaccine exemptions*  
Parents and guardians considering not immunizing their children for non-medical reasons would be required to participate in an education session delivered by their local public health unit; and,
2. *Improve how ISPA designated immunizations are reported*  
Health care providers would be required to report any vaccines they administer to children and youth needed to attend school in Ontario directly to their local public health unit.

On August 9, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) provided notification to health units that as of September 1, 2017 the first of these two amendments to the ISPA would come into effect and parents submitting a new request

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for a non-medical vaccine exemption for their child(ren) under the ISPA, will be required to complete a one-time education session in addition to submitting a signed affidavit. The MOHLTC will require that education sessions be offered in-person to parents by health units. The MOHLTC has developed a standardized education module and printed material in English and French for health units to deliver to parents; health units will have some discretion in how these sessions are delivered.

The intention of the requirement is to ensure parents requesting non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children are fully informed about immunization risks, benefits, and vaccine safety.

Additional details of requirements from the MOHLTC around these education sessions are still in development, and will be communicated to health units and included in the *Ontario Standards for Public Health Programs and Services, 2017*. Based on the information provided to date, it is expected that up to 100 hours of public health nurse (PHN) time could be required to deliver and facilitate sessions with parents. As a result, additional staffing costs could be incurred to ensure the same level of service provision continues. Other resource requirements are expected to include staff support for scheduling sessions and providing documentation, as well as costs for printing of materials and translation for clients requiring sessions and materials in languages other than in English or French.

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