



Vaccine Program  
Mail: P.O. Box 897, Hamilton ON, L8N 3P6  
Phone: 905.540.5250 Fax: 905.546.4841  
[www.hamilton.ca/vaccines](http://www.hamilton.ca/vaccines)

# Immunization of Schools Pupil Act

## Screening and Suspension FAQ

**1. What is the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)?** ISPA is a law in Ontario that requires children attending school to be immunized against specific diseases. The law allows for medical exemptions or exemptions based on conscience or religious beliefs. If a child's immunization is not up-to-date or they do not have a valid exemption on record they may be suspended from school. The goal of ISPA is to protect the health of children and prevent disease outbreaks in schools.

**2. What vaccines are required under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)?** Vaccines required include diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, and meningococcal diseases. To be considered fully vaccinated, a child must meet the vaccine schedule as outlined by the Ontario Immunization Schedule and the Canadian Immunization Guide. This means certain vaccines need to be given at specific times and frequencies to ensure complete and effective immunization. You are recommended to consult with a healthcare provider for more details about the requirements, and to review your child's vaccination.

**3. What is the purpose of the screening letter I received?** The screening letter is sent to identify if your child's vaccine record is incomplete or if there are missing exemptions. It is not a suspension order but a preliminary notification.

**4. Why is Public Health not aware of my child's vaccinations?** Public Health might not have your child's updated vaccine records because **parents/guardians need to report them to Public Health. Healthcare providers do not report these automatically.**

**5. How do I report my child's vaccinations?**

- 1. Online Reporting:** via URL <https://hph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome>, or scan the QR code to the right. ***Please upload a scan or image of the vaccine history document(s).***
- 2. Mail or Fax:** Details for mailing or faxing records are provided in the screening letter.
- 3. Phone Reporting:** Call Vaccine Records at 905-540-5250. Expect high call volumes and exercise patience.





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**6. What if my child needs to be vaccinated?** If your child needs vaccinations, your first step should be to visit your primary care provider. They can administer the necessary routine childhood vaccinations to ensure your child is up-to-date. **Reporting vaccine history to Public Health remains the responsibility of the parent/guardian or the student.**

**7. What happens if I don't update my child's vaccine records?** If the records are not updated after the screening, a suspension order may be issued. The suspension order will specify a deadline to provide an updated vaccine record or receive vaccine.

**8. What is a suspension order?** A suspension order is issued if a student's vaccine records are not updated following the screening process. This order specifies the deadline by which the student must submit an up-to-date vaccine record to avoid being suspended from school. The suspension may be up to 20 school days excluding statutory holidays and PA days.

**9. What is the deadline for updating vaccine records?**

- **Report by Date:** The screening letter includes a 'report by date' for updating records.
- **Suspension Date:** Provided in the suspension order, allowing time for record updates post-screening.

**10. Are there any Public Health vaccine clinics available?** Yes, vaccine clinics are available, but it's recommended to first visit your primary care provider for your child's routine childhood vaccinations.

- **Public Health Clinics:** For those without a health card, routine vaccines are available at public health clinics. Book appointments at [www.hamilton.ca/schoolclinics](http://www.hamilton.ca/schoolclinics).
- **High School Catch-up Clinics:** In collaboration with local school boards, these clinics are available only to students who are currently registered in a high school in Hamilton but may be busy. Capacity limitations mean not all students can be vaccinated during these clinics.

**11. Are there any exemptions to the vaccination requirement?** Yes, for medical or personal reasons. Visit [www.hamilton.ca/vaccines](http://www.hamilton.ca/vaccines) for details. For changes to an ISPA exemption, call 905-540-5250.

## Additional Resources

- General Vaccine Information: [www.hamilton.ca/vaccines](http://www.hamilton.ca/vaccines)
- School Clinics Information: [www.hamilton.ca/schoolclinics](http://www.hamilton.ca/schoolclinics)