

October 09, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This fall the Brant County Health Unit will be at your child's school offering free vaccinations to grade 7 students for **hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningitis**.

These vaccines greatly reduce the risk of your child getting sick with these diseases as well as certain types of cancers. They are safe, effective, and recommended as part of Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule. The meningitis vaccine is required by law for all children, grade 7 and older, attending school in Ontario, unless otherwise exempted. This vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135) is different than the meningitis vaccination routinely provided at one year of age - the grade 7 vaccine provides more protection. To ensure that individuals remain safe from vaccine preventable diseases and to maintain a high level of community protection, it is important that routine immunization is maintained despite COVID. Immunization can prevent illnesses and outbreaks that lead to unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations, and a further strain to the healthcare system.

Please review the fact sheets on our website as follows:

Hepatitis B: <http://www.bchu.org/HepB-FactSheet>

HPV: <http://www.bchu.org/HPV-FactSheet>

Meningitis: <http://www.bchu.org/MenC-FactSheet>

The meningitis vaccine requires one dose, and the hepatitis B and HPV vaccines require two doses. We will be returning to your child's school in the spring to provide the second dose.

Please visit the following link to provide your consent for Brant County Health Unit to administer each vaccination no later than Monday, October 19th, 2020: www.bchu.org/SchoolVaccinationConsent

If your child is not attending school in person, vaccinations can be received at the Brant County Public Health Unit by appointment. Please contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 to schedule this visit. If you wish for your child to get vaccinated by a family doctor, please contact us and we will release the vaccine doses to the physician accordingly.

For more information please visit our website at www.bchu.org or contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 if you have any questions. To find out when we'll be at your child's school, visit www.bchu.org/schoolclinics.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Urbantke, MD, CCFP (EM)
Medical Officer of Health