



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## Immunization Reminder Letter to Elementary Students sent in May 2023

To ensure high levels of community immunity to keep our population safe from vaccine preventable diseases, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) continues to assess required immunizations for students enrolled in school. DRHD is sending letters to elementary students whose records are not up to date. **We will not be enforcing suspensions for the 2022-2023 school year.** Parents can electronically submit immunization information for their children online through [durham.ca/immunize](https://durham.ca/immunize).

### If parents call about the reminder letter

- Compare your record with the Health Department record on the back of the letter
- Provide the missing information or vaccines as needed
- If not able to accommodate, discuss a plan for the student to receive the missing vaccines in the future (there is no deadline enforced this year)

### Scenarios to be aware of

- If Tdap-IPV 4-6-year booster was given before the student's 4th birthday, the student will require another dose.
- If MMR was given before the student's 1st birthday, a booster is needed.
- If live vaccines were given **too close together** (e.g., Varicella, MMR), a booster is required for the **2nd vaccine** given. For minimum intervals, refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#)
- Students in grades 7 to 12 require **one dose** of Men-C-ACYW135 (e.g., Nimenrix®). **Do not** administer Men-C-C as a substitute for Men-C-ACYW135. Men-C-ACYW135 can be ordered using the form [School- Based Vaccine Batch Order Form](#) (or [durham.ca/HCP](https://durham.ca/HCP), Forms, Order)
- Please follow the catch-up schedules according to the Publicly funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario for students who initiated vaccines after one year of age. Contact your immunization nurse with any questions related to these schedules.
- If a child cannot receive immunization(s) for medical reasons, download and complete the form [Statement of Medical Exemption - Immunization of School Pupils Act](#).

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



The following information is provided as a reference when providing vaccines containing diphtheria and pertussis to school-aged clients.

## Should I give DTaP-IPV-Hib or Tdap-IPV to my school aged client?

### Antigen levels

Antigen levels vary significantly for diphtheria and pertussis depending on which vaccine is given. The amount of antigen in the vaccine affects the immune response. Younger children require vaccines containing higher antigen levels to ensure adequate protection. In general, the capitalized letter (e.g., D) contains a larger amount of antigen than the lower-case letter (e.g., d)

Antigen active ingredient	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Pediace)l	Tdap-IPV (Adacel-Polio)
Diphtheria Toxoid	15 Lf (limit of flocculation)	2 Lf
Acellular Pertussis Toxoid	20 ug	2.5 ug

### Who gets what?

- For children starting and completing primary series **before age 7**:
  - Ensure the child has a minimum of 3 valid **DTaP-IPV-Hib** (this is the **primary series**)
  - Give **Tdap-IPV** as a booster dose **AFTER** primary series is completed, **AND** if the client is **at least 4 years of age**
- For children starting immunization **prior to age 7 but completing after age 7**:
  - Give **DTaP-IPV-Hib** dose(s) as per recommended intervals, but once child reaches 7 years of age **switch over** to **Tdap-IPV** to complete their catch-up series
- For children starting immunization **on or after age 7**:
  - Use **Tdap-IPV** as catch-up

In summary, children under age 7 need 3 **larger** antigen doses of diphtheria and pertussis. Please review their record before reaching for Tdap-IPV.

For minimum intervals and additional information, refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).

April 28, 2023

