Panorama: Transforming Public Health

What is Panorama?

Panorama is a computer program that will be used by public health professionals across the province to improve their ability to work together to track immunizations, monitor and respond to infectious disease outbreaks, and ensure effective and timely vaccine distribution to medical professionals.

What Are Some of the Benefits of Panorama?

Panorama will better protect the health of students, parents and teachers and contribute to a safe, healthy and positive school experience by:

- reducing the spread of and exposure to communicable and infectious diseases
- reducing the number of school days missed by both students and teachers due to illness from vaccine preventable diseases
- reducing the number of children incorrectly suspended from school due to incomplete or missing immunization records
- enhancing the province’s ability to respond to emerging health risks

Through Panorama, a secure provincial immunization tracking system will be established for all Ontarians, replacing today’s paper-based “yellow card.”

How is Panorama Being Implemented?

In August 2013, 6 public health units (PHUs) (Niagara Region, Grey Bruce, Huron County, Thunder Bay District, Oxford County and Perth District) began using Panorama to record and track children’s immunization records. Other PHUs start dates are staggered, Durham Region Health Unit anticipates using Panorama in the near future. Once fully operating, 2,000 public health professionals across the province will use Panorama.

What is the New Student Data File Validation Process for PHUs using Panorama?

Presently, private schools send current student information to PHUs to allow them to validate student immunization history, prepare for immunization clinics, as well as to track the immunization status of each student for the designated diseases specified in the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).

To support the implementation of Panorama, it is important to streamline and standardize the process for exchanging information between private schools and health units. This will allow improving the quality and completeness of student information in the immunization records, which, in turn, will result in better protection against communicable diseases and enable us to more accurately determine students who have not completed Ontario’s mandatory immunization schedule. Only these students
would be subject to potential suspension from school. In addition, it will improve the frequency, timing and method of transmission of student data.

Health units would like to work with private schools to accomplish the following:
- all private schools will submit the student data file using the standard elements required according to the Ontario Regulation 645 under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* and in a standard format
- a process for the PHU to inform the private schools of any updates they have made to the student data, such as student’s address, will be implemented

**What is the New Process for Creating Student Data Files for PHUs using Panorama?**

Effective September 2014, your private school will be providing student data files to our PHU – Durham Region Health Department in a new Excel template supplied by the health unit. **The preferred method of completion for the Excel template is electronic to assist in readability and accuracy of data.**

Private schools are required to follow this direction according to the changes made to Ontario Regulation 645 under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).*

The new Excel template can be found on [www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca), Health, Health Highlights (temporarily to facilitate access to Excel template). The lists can also be accessed under Health, Disease & Illness, Immunization, Immunization Laws, Private Schools

**What changes have been made to Ontario Regulation 645 under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*? When do these changes come into effect?**

The following changes have been made to Ontario Regulation 645 under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act:*

**Effective Immediately:**

A. Medical officers of health are required to maintain additional information as part of each student’s immunization record, unless the information is not reasonably possible for the medical officer of health to obtain. The information to be included in each record is as follows:

1. The pupil’s full name, address and telephone number.
2. If applicable, every alternate name of the pupil.
3. The pupil’s sex.
4. The pupil’s date of birth.
5. The pupil’s country of birth.
6. The name of the school attended by the pupil and the identifying number, if any, assigned by the Ministry of Education to the school.
7. The pupil’s school grade or class.
8. The pupil’s health number assigned by the General Manager under the Health Insurance Act.
9. The full name, address and telephone number of every parent of the pupil.
10. The preferred language or languages of the pupil’s parents.
11. A record of all the pupil’s immunizations against designated diseases showing,
   i. the type of vaccine given,
   ii. the date of administration of the vaccine, and
   iii. any reactions to the vaccine.
12. Any statement of medical exemption that pertains to the pupil, showing the effective time period on the statement.
13. Any statement of conscience or religious belief that pertains to the pupil.

B. There is a requirement for operators of schools to report student information to medical officers of health, including each student’s Ontario Education Number (OEN). This information is in addition to the requirements under the Education Act. The additional information will allow for more effective matching of each student record to the correct immunization record, improving the accuracy of information maintained by medical officers of health. It will also support other aspects of immunization program administration. Operators of schools must include the following information, if they collect it, as part of each student’s record in these reports:

1. The pupil’s full name, address and telephone number.
2. If applicable, every alternate name of the pupil.
3. The pupil’s sex.
4. The pupil’s date of birth.
5. The pupil’s country of birth.
6. The name of the school attended by the pupil and the identifying number, if any, assigned by the Ministry of Education to the school.
7. The pupil’s school grade or class
8. The pupil’s Ontario Education Number, if one has been assigned to the pupil
9. The full name, address and telephone number of every parent of the pupil
10. The preferred language or languages of the pupil’s parents

Detailed instructions on the new process for providing student data to PHUs can be found in the document Instructions for Creating and Sending Student Data Files.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the above. If you would like more information or have any questions please contact the nurse assigned to your school from the Vaccine Preventable Diseases program at the Durham Region Health Department.