



# Health Neighbourhoods

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## Immunization Rates in Children

June 2019



Durham Region has 50 Health Neighbourhoods. We present indicators by neighbourhood to better understand how health varies by where we live. Strong, safe and equitable neighbourhoods can improve the health and well-being of all residents.



Vaccinating children is one of the best ways to protect them from serious diseases. Vaccines work best when they are given on time, beginning when the child is very young.



### School required immunizations, age 7-8



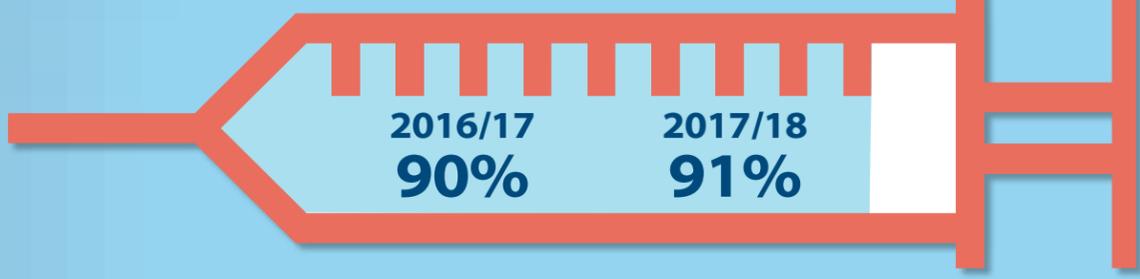
**School-required vaccines** refer to eight vaccines that children must get to attend school: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella.

### School required immunizations, age 16-17



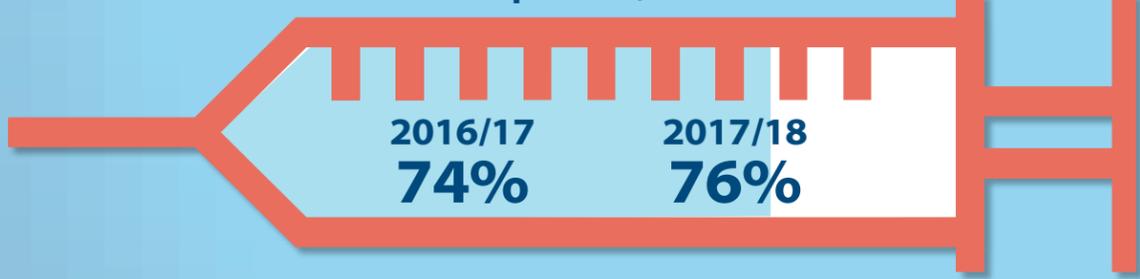
The **meningococcal vaccine** is also required for school. Meningococcal disease is caused by a bacterium that can infect the blood, and lining of the brain and spinal cord. Children receive one dose of the vaccine after their first birthday and another dose in grade 7.

### Meningococcal disease, Grade 7s



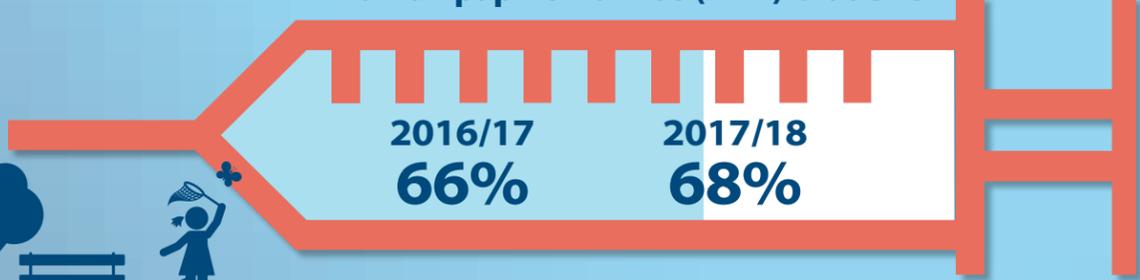
**Hepatitis B** is caused by a virus that affects the liver. Infection can cause permanent liver damage and is one of the most common causes of liver cancer. Children need two<sup>1</sup> doses of the hepatitis B vaccine to be protected against the disease.

### Hepatitis B, Grade 7s



Certain types of **human papillomavirus (HPV)** can lead to cervical cancer, genital cancers, anal cancer, cancers of the head and neck, and genital warts. HPV vaccination and regular cervical screening are the most effective ways to prevent cervical cancer. Children need two<sup>2</sup> doses of the HPV vaccine to be protected against the disease.

### Human papillomavirus (HPV) Grade 7s



- Notes:
1. If a child in Grade 7 has previously received a hepatitis B vaccine, a third dose of the vaccine may be offered.
  2. Depending on the age of a child, a third dose of the HPV vaccine may be offered.



### Highlights

- Immunization rates in children aged 7 or 8 for school-required vaccines increased significantly between 2016/17 and 2017/18 due to enforcement of school suspensions carried out by the Health Department in early 2018.

## Priority Neighbourhoods are communities that require focus to build on health and well-being.

The Priority Neighbourhoods are: 1) Downtown Ajax – Ajax, 2) Downtown Whitby – Whitby, 3) Lakeview – Oshawa, 4) Gibb West – Oshawa, 5) Downtown Oshawa – Oshawa, 6) Central Park – Oshawa, 7) Beatrice North – Oshawa



### Immunization rates among children living in Priority Neighbourhoods, 2016/17 and 2017/18

Immunization Indicator	2016/17	2017/18	Comparison between 2016/17 & 2017/18
School-required immunization in ages 7 or 8	<b>68%</b> Lower than Durham Region	<b>88%</b> Similar to Durham Region	Increase
School-required immunization in ages 16 or 17	<b>86%</b> Lower than Durham Region	<b>87%</b> Similar to Durham Region	No significant change
Meningococcal disease, Grade 7s	<b>91%</b> Similar to Durham Region	<b>90%</b> Similar to Durham Region	No significant change
Hepatitis B, Grade 7s	<b>76%</b> Similar to Durham Region	<b>72%</b> Lower than Durham Region	No significant change
HPV, Grade 7s	<b>67%</b> Similar to Durham Region	<b>63%</b> Lower than Durham Region	No significant change

### Featured Neighbourhoods (2017/18 school year):

#### School-required vaccines in ages 7 or 8:



**Higher than DR:**  
Pickering North, Bowmanville North



**Lower than DR:**  
Applecroft (Ajax), Gibb West (Oshawa)

#### School-required vaccines in ages 16 or 17:



**Lower than DR:**  
Grandview South (Oshawa), Darlington (Clarington)

#### Meningococcal disease, Grade 7:



**Higher than DR:**  
Ajax Northwest



**Lower than DR:**  
Darlington (Clarington)

#### Hepatitis B, Grade 7:



**Higher than DR:**  
Ajax Northeast, Applecroft (Ajax),  
Ajax Northwest, Williamsburg (Whitby)



**Lower than DR:**  
Rural Scugog, Downtown Whitby

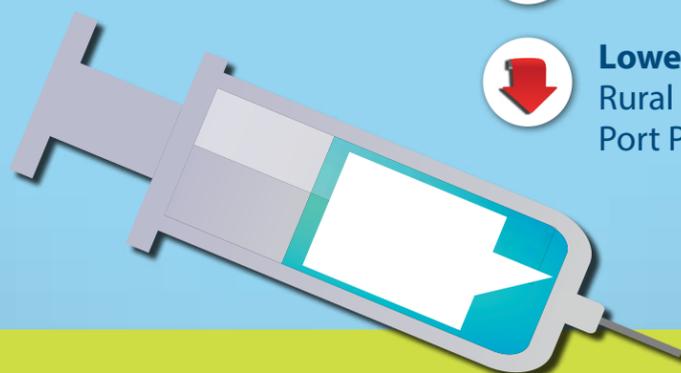
#### HPV, Grade 7:



**Higher than DR:**  
Ajax Northeast, Ajax Northwest



**Lower than DR:**  
Rural Scugog, Beatrice North (Oshawa),  
Port Perry



### Highlights

- Children living in the seven Priority Neighbourhoods had lower immunization rates for school-required immunizations in 2016/17 but rates were similar to Durham Region one year later.
- For 2017/18, immunization rates for hepatitis B and HPV were lower in the Priority Neighbourhoods compared to Durham Region. The hepatitis B, HPV, and meningococcal vaccines are given in school to Grade 7 students by Health Department nurses rather than through a child's doctor.