



Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**

For Health Care Professionals



Inactivated Poliovirus (IPV) Vaccine Shortage

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has advised there is a **national shortage of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV)**. The IPV supply shortage is time-limited, with additional supply in Durham Region anticipated at the beginning of May. Currently, the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) does not have IPV doses for distribution. **Previously placed orders will be filled once DRHD receives additional supply.**

Students overdue for IPV

For the 2024-2025 school year, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* continues to be fully enforced to include non-punitive suspensions for Secondary School students born in 2010 (grade 9) and Elementary School students born in 2017, 2016 and 2015 (grades 2-4) who do not have an up-to-date immunization record.

In Ontario, the polio vaccination series is typically completed through administration of combination vaccines (e.g. DTaP-IPV-Hib, Tdap-IPV). Some students may be overdue for IPV alone if they received an oral polio vaccine (OPV) on or after April 1, 2016, or if a student missed doses of combination vaccines (e.g. Tdap given instead of Tdap-IPV). If a student requires only an IPV vaccine, DRHD recommends the following:

- For students who have **completed their primary series** of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis, **the use of Tdap-IPV may be considered** if deemed appropriate (there is no minimum interval between doses of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and extra doses are considered safe).
- If administration of Tdap-IPV is not appropriate, prioritize students at risk of suspension under ISPA that require IPV. Delay vaccination for students not at risk of suspension until supply is replenished.

If parents call inquiring about required vaccines

- Compare your record with the Health Department record (if student received an immunization letter from DRHD).
- Provide the missing information or vaccines as needed.
- Remind parents to submit immunization information for children to DRHD online at durham.ca/immunize.

April 9, 2025

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

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

