

IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why does the Health Unit review student immunization records?

- By law, the [Immunization of School Pupils Act](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01) (ISPA) R.S.O.1990 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>) requires public health units to maintain and review vaccine records for every student attending school in their region. The health unit is also required to contact parents of students who have incomplete immunization records.
- To protect community health and well-being, public health units are required to enforce school suspension on children who have not yet received mandated vaccines required by law to attend school. Immunizations for COVID-19 are not included in this requirement.
- Under the ISPA, parents/guardians are required to provide their local public health unit with vaccine-related information. Health care providers and schools are not required to do this.
- Students with incomplete records by the health unit's deadline may be suspended from school until their immunization records are complete, for up to 20 days.

2. Why did my child receive an immunization notice?

- The child's immunization record is missing a required vaccine(s).
- The health unit has not received an immunization record for the student, even though the child is up-to-date on their vaccinations (This does not include COVID-19 vaccinations).
- A vaccine received may not meet the requirements of the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

3. I don't have a health care provider. What do I do?

You can contact the health unit (519-960-0231 ext. 1222) or book an immunization [appointment](https://www.wechu.org/getimmunized) (<https://www.wechu.org/getimmunized>) to get your child's vaccination schedule on track.

You can also visit the health unit's [website](https://www.wechu.org/your-health/find-doctor) (<https://www.wechu.org/your-health/find-doctor>) to find a health care provider.

4. What happens if I do not provide the required information to the Health Unit?

Students whose immunizations records are incomplete with the WECHU on Thursday, March 16, 2023 will be suspended from school on Monday, March 20, 2023, for up to 20 days. Suspended students can return to school once their records are up-to-date with the WECHU, or they have submitted a valid exemption (Medical or Conscience or Religious Belief).

5. What if I choose not to immunize my child?

You must have a valid Conscience or Religious Belief or medical exemption on file at the Health Unit.

6. What if my child has an exemption?

Your child should not have received a suspension order if you have a valid exemption on file with the WECHU. Please contact the WECHU at 519-960-0231 ext. 1222 to verify your child's records.

QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTING IMMUNIZATIONS

1. My health care provider vaccinated my child. Don't they send the information to the health unit?

If your child received an immunization(s) from their health care provider, the vaccinations need to be reported to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. Health care providers are not required to update this information with their local health unit.

Vaccinations that were provided by a staff person from the WECHU (e.g., immunization clinic at your child's school or at a Catch-Up clinic) have been documented on your child's record by WECHU staff.

2. How do I report my child's vaccinations?

You can report your child's vaccinations to the health unit in the following ways:

- Online at [immune.wechu.org \(https://immune.wechu.org/\)](https://immune.wechu.org/)
- Call the health unit at 519-960-0231 extension 1222, or toll-free at 1-800-265-5822 extension 1222
- Fax the record to 519-258-7288
- You do not need to report your child's COVID-19 immunizations to the health unit.

QUESTIONS ABOUT IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

1. What if my child's record is in another language?

If your child has an immunization record in a language other than English, please have the record translated and bring the translated record to the health unit.

The VON Immigrant Health Clinic provides free translation of immunization records. For more information on which languages they support or for the clinic location, call 519-916-4370.

2. What happens if the school receives an immunization notice for a student that no longer attends?

Please send the immunization notice back to the School Board office or the WECHU.