

## IMMUNIZATION RECORDS What Every Parent Needs to Know FOR CHILD CARE

### Why Immunize?

Vaccines protect against some very serious diseases. Vaccines trigger your child's own immune system to make antibodies to fight diseases. For immunization to work best, children must have all their vaccinations on time.

Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA), 2014, requires children to be vaccinated to attend licensed child care.

### What are the Guidelines for Immunization?

The Immunization of School Pupils Act states that all children attending school, as of 2014/2015 school year, must be adequately immunized against specific diseases which are:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Meningococcal C
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Varicella (chicken pox) for children born in 2010 or later

The CCEYA states children attending child care must be immunized against the diseases recommended by the Medical Officer of Health. They include those listed above and haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), streptococcus pneumonia, rotavirus, seasonal influenza and varicella for children born on or after January 1, 2000.

Parents are required to provide their child's immunization record when registering their child for school or child care.

### What if I don't want to immunize my child?

Not immunizing your child will leave them unprotected at a time when they may be at greater risk for the disease. Immunizations are mandatory in Ontario for child care but children may be exempted under the following circumstances:

1. an appropriate medical reason (temporary or permanent)
2. for reasons of conscience or religious belief

If a child in child care is not to be vaccinated for medical reasons, a Regulated Health Professional can sign a [Statement of Medical Exemption for](#)

[Child](#), of CCEYA, 2014 (available at the Health Unit, child care or online). The completed form must be submitted to the Health Unit.

Exemptions for religious or philosophical reasons, requires a [Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief for Child](#), CCEYA, 2014.

### What if I don't immunize my child?

Not immunizing your child leaves them at risk for infection. If an outbreak or threat of an outbreak of any vaccine-preventable disease occurs, they may be excluded from child care.

### Why keep an up-to-date "yellow card"

Each vaccination given to an Ontario citizen is recorded by the health care provider on a yellow immunization record. If there is an outbreak of an infectious disease within the community, an up-to-date record will provide proof of immunity. Proof of immunity is required for some recreational programs, summer camps and post-secondary education enrolment. These records also help keep track of the immunizations received to ensure the proper immunization schedule is followed.

### What is the Timiskaming Health Unit's Role in Immunization?

The Health Unit is responsible under the Ontario Public Health Standards for collecting and maintaining updated immunization information for children enrolled in licensed child care centers. It is the parent or guardians responsibility to notify the Health Unit each time their child receives a vaccination.

The Health Unit offers immunizations by appointment at their offices.

### How will I know if my child's immunizations are up-to-date?

To register for child care you must have an immunization record for the Health Unit to review and it must be current for your child to start attending. Notices are then sent to parents and guardians through the child care when vaccines are due.

### **What if this notice says my child's record is incomplete but they have had the vaccine?**

If you think your child has already received the vaccine, check your child's yellow immunization card or call your health care provider for the information. Complete the form with the up-to-date information and return it to the Health Unit to complete their record.

Remember your child's immunizations are not automatically forwarded to the Health Unit from your health care provider, another health unit, child care, or school.

### **What if this notice says that my child is missing some vaccinations?**

Check your child's yellow immunization card. If your child is in child care and has not received the vaccines, make an appointment with your health care provider or the health Unit to get your child vaccinated. All of the vaccines are available free of charge. Remember to bring the notice and yellow immunization card with you to the appointment. Complete the notice and return it to the child care as requested.

### **Where do I find information about immunizations?**

There is a lot of information about immunization available from a wide variety of sources. Parents/guardians must ensure that they receive information from credible resources.

Recommended sources include the following:

#### **Websites**

- Immunize Canada (formerly Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion)  
[www.immunize.cpha.ca](http://www.immunize.cpha.ca)
- Canadian Pediatric Society  
[www.cps.ca](http://www.cps.ca)
- Caring for Kids. Vaccination Questions and Answers  
[www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/immunization-index](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/immunization-index)
- National Network for Immunization Information  
[www.immunizationinfo.org](http://www.immunizationinfo.org)
- The Canadian Immunization Guide, Online Edition, Public Health Agency of Canada,  
[www.phac.aspc.gc.ca/publication/cig-gci](http://www.phac.aspc.gc.ca/publication/cig-gci)

#### **Books**

- Your Child's Best Shot. A Parent's Guide to Vaccination. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Canadian Paediatric Society, 2015.

### **Timiskaming Health Unit**

<b>New Liskeard:</b>	705-647-4305 (1-866-747-4305)
<b>Englehart:</b>	705-544-2221 (1-877-544-2221)
<b>Kirkand Lake:</b>	705-567-9355 (1-866-967-9355)

Adapted from:  
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