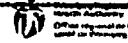


975 Henderson Hwy  
Winnipeg, MB R2K 4L7

Tel: 204.938.5000  
Fax: 204.938.5449

Health and Social Services Near You



School Year 2017/2018

## **Letter to Parents/Legal Guardians about Immunizations for John G. Stewart Students**

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Public Health Program offers immunizations to students that attend John G. Stewart School to provide an opportunity to receive any vaccine they are due for.

A Manitoba Health immunization consent form and fact sheets are included in this package.

Students that are residents of Manitoba will have their immunization records checked in the Manitoba immunization registry to see what immunizations they are due for.

If your child has received immunizations outside of Manitoba, please provide a copy of the record of immunizations with your consent form so that your child's records may be updated in the provincial immunization registry.

The Public Health Nurse will immunize students in school at a scheduled time four times throughout the year. You will receive a record of immunization after the vaccine is given.

In Manitoba, immunizations are voluntary and are only given with the consent of the parent or legal guardian.

Please ensure the consent form is returned as soon as possible to confirm that you have received this information. If you have any questions, please contact your Public Health Nurse, **Sharon Vukovic** at 204-770-9870.

# Child Immunization Consent Form

PHIN Check: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## A. Personal information:

Surname	Given Name	Age	Sex	School	Grade	Classroom
	JOHN G STEWART					

9-Digit Manitoba Health Number (PHIN#) \_\_\_\_\_ 6-Digit Manitoba Health Number (MHSC#) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

According to the Manitoba Routine Childhood Immunization schedule, it is time for the above person to receive the vaccine(s) checked off below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DTaP-IPV-Hib Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenza type B | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tdap Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tdap-IPV Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pneu-C-13 Pneumococcal Conjugate 13 valent      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rotavirus  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pneu-P-23 Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23 valent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MMRV Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Men-C-C Meningococcal C Conjugate    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MMR Measles, Mumps, Rubella   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HPV Human Papillomavirus (2 doses)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HB Hepatitis B (2 doses)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flu Influenza                                   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: V Varicella                   |

A fact sheet is attached regarding benefits and risks of the vaccine(s). Please read carefully.  
 If you did not receive a fact sheet or if you have any questions, call your local public health office: **204-938-5300**  
 A Public Health Nurse will provide this immunization on (date) \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Parent or legal decision-maker to complete:

- Does your child have any allergies? No  Yes  If yes, to what? \_\_\_\_\_
- Has your child ever had a reaction to a vaccine? No  Yes  If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Does your child have any health conditions that require regular visits to a doctor? No  Yes  If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Has your child ever had chickenpox? No  Yes  Year: \_\_\_\_\_
- Has your child ever had chickenpox vaccine? No  Yes  if yes, date received: \_\_\_\_\_
- Is your child pregnant? No  Yes  N/A

### Check only one of the following four options:

YES - I DO Consent to the person named above receiving the vaccine(s) identified in Section A.

OR

YES - I DO Consent to the person named above receiving the vaccine(s) identified in Section A except: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please indicate which vaccine(s) you do not consent for the above named person to receive)

NO - I DO NOT Consent to the person named above receiving the vaccine(s) identified in Section A.

OR

NO - The person named above already received the vaccine(s) identified in Section A.  
 Immunization received on: year/month /day: \_\_\_\_\_  
 From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Provide name of doctor/clinic/address)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent or legal decision-maker year/month/day

Telephone Numbers: (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Notice: Immunizations are recorded in the Manitoba immunization registry. If you would like more information or have any questions please speak to your health care provider. All information recorded will be protected in accordance with the Protection of Privacy provisions of The Personal Health Information Act.

## C. Section to be completed by the immunization provider:

Verbal Consent: The parent or legal decision-maker has been made aware of the benefits and the risks of the vaccine(s) offered to the above person and consents for the child to be immunized on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_ Provider Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Client ID confirmed and vaccine(s) administered:

Vaccine	Number in Series	Manufacturer	Lot #	Site	Route	Dose	Date y/m/d	Provider Signature	Panorama Entered

### Supplementary Information

Date	Notes (include immunization refusal)	Signature

# Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine

## Public Health - Factsheet

---

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention.<sup>1</sup> Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

---

### What are tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio?

These diseases can cause serious complications and death.

**Tetanus (or lockjaw):** Tetanus is caused by bacteria that can cause painful tightening and stiffening of muscles (spasms) usually all over the body including muscles in the head and neck and may prevent chewing or swallowing and breathing problems. Tetanus infections can be very serious and often deadly if the breathing muscles are affected. Tetanus does not spread from person to person. Tetanus spores live in dirt, dust and manure and can get into the body through an open cut or burn on the skin. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-10 days after infection.

**Diphtheria:** Diphtheria is caused by bacteria that can make a thick covering (membrane) in the back of the nose and throat, which can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death. Diphtheria can be spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or sharing of food or drinks. Diphtheria sometimes causes skin sores, and contact with these sores can also spread infection. Symptoms may begin to appear 2-5 days after infection.

**Pertussis (whooping cough):** Pertussis is caused by bacteria that results in long coughing spells that makes it hard for infants and children to eat, drink, or even breathe. It also can result in pneumonia, brain damage, seizures and death, especially in infants. Pertussis can easily spread by coughing or sneezing or face-to-face-contact. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-10 days after infection.

**Polio:** Is caused by a virus that can cause a sore throat, sudden fever, nausea, muscle weakness and pain. In more severe cases, polio can also affect the spinal cord or brain, which can result in permanent paralysis or may result in death. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-21 days after infection.

### What is Tdap-IPV vaccine?

Tdap-IPV vaccine is approved by Health Canada and provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and polio diseases. This vaccine gets administered by needle.

In order to be fully protected against these diseases multiple doses may be required over a period of time.

### Why should I get the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect you or your child(ren) against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio that can often be serious and sometimes fatal.

Vaccines help prepare your body to fight potential future exposure to the virus/bacteria by getting your immune system ready.

The vaccine helps to protect you, your family, and other people in your community.

As protection from the vaccine can lessen over time it is important to follow Manitoba's Immunization Schedule.

### Possible side-effects of Tdap-IPV vaccine

It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio. Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety.

Common reactions to the vaccine include pain, soreness, redness or swelling where the vaccine was given. Other symptoms are fever, headache, and tiredness. Acetaminophen (Tylenol<sup>®</sup>) can be given for fever or soreness.

---

ASA (Aspirin<sup>®</sup>) should NEVER be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.

---

# Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) Vaccine

## Public Health - Factsheet

---

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention<sup>1</sup>. Vaccines help your immunization system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

---

Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella viruses can all be spread easily through the air, or through contact with fluids in the nose or throat. The viruses can pass from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or sharing food or drinks. Children may become infected by sharing infected soothers, bottles or toys from other children. The varicella virus can also be spread through contact with the fluid from chickenpox blisters.

### What is Measles?

Symptoms of measles generally appear 7-18 days after infection. Initial symptoms are fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Three to seven days after the initial symptoms appear, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body. An infected person is able to spread the virus from 7 days before the rash appears to four days after. Measles infection can lead to complications such as ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia and swelling of the brain. Although rare, serious complications due to measles virus can cause death in children and adults. There is no specific treatment for measles. Treatment focuses on relieving the symptoms.

### What is Mumps?

Mumps occurs mostly in children but can happen in adults. Symptoms appear 12 to 25 days after exposure to the virus. The common symptoms are fever, headache, swollen and painful salivary glands and swollen cheeks. Of those infected with the virus, 1 of 5 shows no symptoms. Infection can lead to serious illness and complications including swelling of the brain, infection of the lining of the brain, deafness, and increased risk of miscarriage if contracted in the early stages of pregnancy, male sterility and death. There is no treatment for mumps. Any treatment only focuses on relieving the symptoms.

### What is Rubella?

Rubella is also called German measles. The symptoms are low-grade fever, sore throat, headache, swollen glands and a red or pink rash. Infection during early stages of pregnancy can cause miscarriage, stillbirth and severe birth defects such as deafness, blindness, heart defects or liver, spleen and brain damage. Symptoms appear 14 to 21 days after infection with the virus. A person remains infectious for at least seven days after the rash appears. There is no specific treatment for rubella. Any treatment only focuses on relieving the symptoms.

### What is Varicella?

Also called chickenpox, varicella causes an itchy rash with fluid filled blisters. Other symptoms include mild fever, headache, joint and muscle aches. Most people who get varicella recover completely, but, in more severe cases, chickenpox can lead to serious infections of the skin, joints, lungs (pneumonia), blood, bones or even heart. In rare cases, it may also cause swelling of the brain (encephalitis). Newborn babies, adults and those with weakened immune systems are especially at risk. Symptoms appear 10 to 21 days after exposure. You are infectious 1 to 2 days before rash appears and lasts until rash has crusted.

### What is MMRV vaccine?

MMRV vaccines are approved by Health Canada for use in children from 12 months to 12 years of age and provide protection against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella diseases. This vaccine gets administered by a needle. In order to be fully protected against these diseases, multiple doses may be required over a period of time.

# Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) Vaccine

---

## Your record of protection

Make sure your immunization provider updates your immunization record card or that of your child(ren), after you receive an immunization. Keep the card in a safe place! Your child(ren)'s immunizations will be recorded in Manitoba's immunization registry. This registry:

- allows the health care provider to find out which immunizations you or your child(ren) have had or need to have;
- may be used to produce immunization records, or notify you or your health care provider if a particular immunization has been missed;
- allows Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and public health officials to monitor how well vaccines work in preventing disease.

If you need information on the immunizations that you or your child(ren) have received, contact your health care provider.

The Personal Health Information Act protects your information and/or that of your child(ren). You can have your personal health information and/or that of your child(ren) hidden from view from health care providers. For additional information, please contact your local public health office to speak with a public health nurse.

For a listing of public health offices please visit:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html>.

For more information on the MMRV vaccine:

- Talk to your health care provider
- Call Health Links - Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8200; toll-free elsewhere in Manitoba 1-888-315-9257.
- OR Visit: Manitoba's Immunization Program:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html>

Government of Canada website:

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/index-eng.php>

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency, Canadian Immunization Guide  
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p01-02-eng.php>

# Hepatitis B Vaccine

## Public Health - Factsheet for Parents & Guardians

---

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention<sup>1</sup>. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

---

### What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a virus that attacks the liver. The liver is a very important organ that is responsible for carrying out a number of vital functions. Hepatitis B can be spread from person to person from cuts or bites, from sharing personal care items such as a toothbrush and from direct contact with body fluid (e.g. blood) from someone who is infected with hepatitis B. Your child cannot catch the virus from sneezes, coughs or hugs.

Signs and symptoms of hepatitis B may include fever, stomach pain, tiredness, loss of appetite and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes) that may last for weeks or months. Almost all children who are infected with hepatitis B do not experience any of these signs or symptoms until after the liver is already severely damaged.

Most people that are infected with hepatitis B recover in 4 to 8 weeks but some people can carry the virus for the rest of their lives. The younger a person is when infected with hepatitis B, the more likely it is that they will be infected for life. If the virus does not go away on its own, it can go on to cause permanent liver damage, including cancer and liver failure.

### What is the hepatitis B vaccine?

The hepatitis B vaccine is approved by Health Canada and protects against hepatitis B. There are other types of hepatitis that are caused by other viruses, such as hepatitis A and hepatitis C. The hepatitis B vaccine will only protect your child against hepatitis B.

When the hepatitis B vaccine is provided as part of Manitoba's routine childhood immunization schedule, it is over 95% effective in preventing infection for at least 30 years.

### Why should my child get the hepatitis B vaccine?

All children should be immunized against hepatitis B. Immunization is the best way to protect your child against the hepatitis B virus that can be serious and sometimes fatal.

Vaccines help prepare your body to fight potential future exposure to the virus by getting your immune system ready.

The vaccine helps to protect you, your family, and other people in your community.

### Possible side effects of the hepatitis B vaccine

It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get hepatitis B. Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety.

Common reactions to the vaccine include soreness, redness, pain or swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children may have fever, drowsiness, dizziness, or an upset stomach. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®, Tempra® or generic versions) can be given for fever or soreness.

---

Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA - Aspirin® or generic versions) should NEVER be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.

---

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is a rare possibility of a severe allergic reaction. This can include hives, difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department or health centre for immediate attention should any reaction occur after leaving the clinic.

---

Report any serious or unexpected side-effects to a health care provider.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada

# Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

## Public Health - Factsheet

---

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention<sup>1</sup>. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

---

Measles, mumps and rubella viruses can all be spread easily through the air, or through contact with fluids in the nose or throat. The viruses can pass from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or sharing food or drinks. Children may become infected by sharing infected soothers, bottles or toys from other children.

### What is measles?

Symptoms of measles generally appear 7-18 days after infection. Initial symptoms are fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Three to seven days after the initial symptoms appear, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body. An infected person is able to spread the virus from five days before the rash appears to four days after. Measles infection can lead to complications such as ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia and swelling of the brain. Although rare, serious complications due to measles virus can cause death in children and adults. There is no specific treatment for measles. Treatment focuses on relieving the symptoms.

### What is mumps?

Mumps occurs mostly in children but can happen in adults. Symptoms appear 12 to 25 days after exposure to the virus. The common symptoms are fever, headache, swollen and painful salivary glands and swollen cheeks. Of those infected with the virus, 1 of 5 show no symptoms. Infection can lead to serious illness and complications including swelling of the brain, infection of the lining of the brain, hearing loss, and increased risk of miscarriage if contracted in the early stages of pregnancy, male sterility and death. There is no treatment for mumps. Treatment focuses on relieving the symptoms.

### What is Rubella?

Rubella is also called German measles. The symptoms are low-grade fever, sore throat, headache, swollen glands and a red or pink rash. Infection during early

stages of pregnancy can cause miscarriage, stillbirth and severe birth defects such as deafness, blindness, heart defects or liver, spleen and brain damage. Symptoms appear 14 to 21 days after infection with the virus. A person remains infectious for at least seven days after the rash appears. There is no specific treatment for rubella. Treatment focuses on relieving the symptoms.

### What is MMR vaccine?

MMR vaccines are approved by Health Canada and provide protection against measles, mumps and rubella diseases. This vaccine gets administered by a needle. In order to be fully protected against these diseases, multiple doses may be required over a period of time.

### Why should I get MMR vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect you and your child(ren) against measles, mumps and rubella that can often be serious and sometimes fatal. Vaccines help prepare the person getting the vaccine's body to fight potential future exposure to the mumps, measles and rubella viruses by getting their immune system ready. The vaccine helps to protect you, your family, and other people in your community. As protection from the vaccine can lessen over time it is important to follow Manitoba's Immunization Schedule.

### Possible side-effects of MMR vaccine

It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get measles, mumps, or rubella. Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety. Common reactions to the vaccine include pain, soreness, redness or swelling where the vaccine was given. Other side-effects are fever, headache, and tiredness. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) can be given for fever or soreness.

Adverse events following immunization with MMR vaccine occur less frequently and are less severe than

# Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

---

- allows Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and public health officials to monitor how well vaccines work in preventing disease.

If you need information on the immunizations that you or your child(ren) have received, contact your immunization provider.

*The Personal Health Information Act* protects your information and/or that of your child(ren). You can have your personal health information and/or that of your child(ren) hidden from view from health care providers. For additional information, please contact your local public health office to speak with a public health nurse.

For a listing of public health offices, please visit:  
[www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html).

## **For more information on the MMR vaccine:**

- Talk to your immunization provider
- Call: Health Links – Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8200; toll-free elsewhere in Manitoba 1-888-315-9257
- **OR Visit: Manitoba's Immunization Program:**  
[www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html)
- **Government of Canada website:**  
<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/index-eng.php>

## **Please visit the Vaccine Factsheets and Resources webpage for the most current factsheet:**

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/vaccines.html>



# Tetanus, Diphtheria and acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

## Public Health - Factsheet

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention.<sup>1</sup> Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.

### What are tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis?

These diseases can cause serious complications including death.

**Tetanus (or lockjaw):** Tetanus is caused by bacteria that can cause painful tightening and stiffening of muscles (spasms) usually all over the body including muscles in the head and neck and may prevent chewing or swallowing and breathing problems. Tetanus infections can be very serious and often deadly if the breathing muscles are affected. Tetanus does not spread from person to person. Tetanus spores live in dirt, dust and manure and can get into the body through an open cut or burn on the skin. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-10 days after infection.

**Diphtheria:** Diphtheria is caused by bacteria that can make a thick covering (membrane) in the back of the nose and throat, which can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death. Diphtheria can be spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or sharing of food or drinks. Diphtheria sometimes causes skin sores, and contact with these sores can also spread infection. Symptoms may begin to appear 2-5 days after infection.

**Pertussis (whooping cough):** Pertussis is caused by bacteria that results in long coughing spells that makes it hard for infants and children to eat, drink, or even breathe. It also can result in pneumonia, brain damage, seizures and death, especially in infants. Pertussis can easily spread by coughing or sneezing or face-to-face-contact. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-10 days after infection.

### What is the Tdap Vaccine?

Tdap vaccine is approved by Health Canada and provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis diseases. This vaccine gets administered by needle.

In order to be fully protected against these diseases multiple doses may be required over a period of time.

### Why should I get the Tdap vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect you and your family against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis that can often be serious and sometimes fatal.

Vaccines help prepare your body to fight potential future exposure to the virus/bacteria by getting your immune system ready.

The vaccine helps to protect you, your family, and other people in your community.

As protection from the vaccine can lessen over time it is important to follow Manitoba's Immunization Schedule.

### Possible side-effects of the Tdap vaccine

It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis. Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety.

Common reactions to the vaccine include soreness, redness and swelling where the vaccine was given. Some people may have fever, drowsiness, dizziness, or an upset stomach. These are mild reactions and usually last one to two days. Acetaminophen (Tylenol® or Tempra®) can be given for fever or soreness.

ASA (Aspirin®) should NEVER be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is a rare possibility of a severe allergic reaction. This can include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada

# Meningococcal Conjugate C (Men-C-C) Vaccine

## Communicable Disease Control – Factsheet

---

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.

---

### What is the Men-C-C vaccine?

The Men-C-C vaccine protects against meningococcal disease, type C.

The symptoms of meningococcal disease vary widely, but can include sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, vomiting, stiff neck and rash. Sensitivity to light, sleepiness, confusion and in severe cases, coma may also occur. Meningococcal disease can cause serious infection and can be fatal, even with prompt medical treatment. Those who survive may suffer from permanent brain damage, hearing loss or loss of limbs.

### How is the disease spread?

Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria that can spread easily from one person to another. The bacteria spreads by direct contact with respiratory and oral fluid through close face-to-face contact, by kissing or sharing food, drink, musical instruments, water bottles, cigarettes or other things that have been in the mouth of a person with the disease.

### Who should get the Men-C-C vaccine?

The disease can affect people of any age; however, children under the age of 5 — especially those under the age of one — are at highest risk. Meningococcal disease is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in teenagers and young adults. It is especially important for children to get immunized if they have one or more of the following:

- No spleen or a spleen that is not working properly due to illness such as sickle cell disease, lupus, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease or low platelet counts of unknown cause
- An immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment
- Complement, properdin or factor D deficiency
- Bone marrow (stem cell) or solid organ transplant

Some children and adults over two years of age may need a different meningococcal vaccine.

Talk to your doctor or public health nurse for more information on meningococcal vaccines and, to see what vaccines you and your child are eligible to receive free-of-charge as part of the recommended immunization schedule.

Or visit:

**Manitoba Public Health website**

[www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/index.html)

### Who should not get the Men-C-C vaccine?

Anyone who has a severe allergy to any of the vaccine ingredients or packaging or had a severe allergic reaction to a previous meningococcal, diphtheria or tetanus shot.

Pregnant women.

# Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine

## Public Health – Factsheet for Parents & Guardians

---

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention.<sup>1</sup> Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.

---

### What is human papillomavirus (HPV)?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) can infect many parts of the body in both girls and boys. While most HPV infections go away over time with no treatment, some can go on to cause some types of cancer that affect the reproductive areas as well as mouth and throat of both girls and boys.

HPV can cause abnormal cell changes in both males and females that over time can lead to cancer if left untreated. Many cancers that are caused by HPV do not have symptoms until they are quite advanced. In Manitoba, approximately 50 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and about 20 of these women die annually from the disease. In Canada, approximately 155 men are diagnosed with penile cancer each year, and about 39 of these men die annually from the disease. For these reasons, it is important for your sons and daughters to get immunized against HPV.

### What is the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine provides protection against certain types of HPV. When it is given before exposure to the virus, it is very effective in preventing infection from two of the most common types of HPV, which cause approximately 70% of cervical cancers, 90% of anal cancers, 60% of penile cancers and other cancers of the mouth, throat, vagina and vulva.

The HPV vaccine is given as a series of two or three shots over a few months. The recommended number of doses depends on the age of the child when first immunized. It is very important for your child to get all of the injections in the series.

### How is HPV spread?

Anyone, male or female, who has sexual contact with another person can get HPV. HPV infection usually has no signs or symptoms, so it is easy for people who are infected to pass it on to others without even knowing it. For this reason, it is important to immunize your child **before** the start of sexual activity.

### Who should get the HPV vaccine?

**The HPV vaccine works best when it is given before exposure to the virus.**

The HPV vaccine is offered free of charge as part of Manitoba's routine childhood immunizations, to girls in Grade 6 born during or after 1997, and to boys in Grade 6 born during or after 2005. In addition, boys born between 2002 and 2004 will also be eligible for the HPV vaccine free of charge, starting September 2016 as part of a catch up program.

Public health nurses provide the HPV vaccine in schools. If your son and/or daughter misses one or more doses at school, or has an immune-compromising condition, please speak with your doctor, public health nurse, pharmacist or nurse practitioner to obtain the remaining dose(s).

### Who should NOT get the HPV vaccine?

Anyone under the age of nine.

Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of any vaccine or to any of the contents of the HPV vaccine should speak with their healthcare provider.

Anyone who has a high fever should wait until they feel better to be immunized. The vaccine can still be given if the illness is mild, like a cold.

Those who are pregnant are advised to defer vaccination until after pregnancy.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada

# Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine

## Public Health – Factsheet

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention<sup>1</sup>. Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.

### What is the varicella vaccine?

The varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox.

Chickenpox is caused by the varicella virus. It can lead to serious infection and in rare cases can be fatal.

Chickenpox causes an itchy rash that turns into small fluid-filled blisters, as well as fever and headache.

Most people recover from chickenpox without any other problems. But, in more severe cases, chickenpox can lead to serious infections of the skin, joints, lungs (pneumonia), blood, bone, or even heart. In rare cases, it may also cause swelling of the brain (encephalitis).

If pregnant women become infected, their unborn babies can be very seriously harmed. Women infected early in their pregnancies may have babies born with permanent problems such as scarring, blindness, deformed arms and legs, or brain damage. Women infected late in their pregnancy may pass chickenpox on to their baby. Babies who are born with chickenpox are usually severely ill and often do not survive the infection.

The varicella vaccine contains weakened forms of the varicella virus. It is approved by Health Canada and is provided at no charge by Manitoba Health as part of Manitoba's routine immunization schedule and to those at high risk.

### How is chickenpox spread?

Varicella virus can be spread through the air, so the virus can pass from person to person by coughing or sneezing. It can also be spread through contact with fluid from the chickenpox blisters of an infected person.

### Why should my child get the varicella vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect your child against chickenpox.

When your child is immunized you also help protect others, because someone who is immunized is less likely to spread infection. This is especially important with varicella. Immunizing your child helps to protect pregnant women and their unborn babies as well as immune-compromised individuals who either cannot be immunized with the varicella vaccine or who may experience serious complications if they come into contact with the varicella virus.

Most people who get the varicella vaccine will not get chickenpox. If someone who has been immunized does get chickenpox, it is usually very mild. They will have fewer blisters, are less likely to have a fever or serious complications, and will recover faster.

### Who should get the varicella vaccine?

All children 12 months of age or older should get the varicella vaccine. In Manitoba it is usually given at 12 months of age and at 4-6 years of age.

The doses of varicella vaccine can be given as individual vaccines or, as part of a combined vaccine containing mumps, measles, rubella and varicella (MMRV).

If your child has had chickenpox before their 1st birthday, they should still get the vaccine as they may not have developed a long lasting immunity and could get chickenpox again.

<sup>1</sup> The Public Health Agency of Canada