



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## ISPA Enforcement for the 2024-2025 School Year

To increase vaccine uptake and ensure communities are safe from vaccine preventable diseases, the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) will be sending Immunization Notices and Suspension Orders to students who continue to be overdue for vaccines required for school. **For the 2024-2025 school year, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* will be fully enforced to include non-punitive suspensions for all Secondary School students and Elementary School students born in 2017, 2016 and 2015 (grades 2-4) who do not have an up-to-date immunization record.** Parents can electronically submit immunization information for their children online through [durham.ca/immunize](https://durham.ca/immunize).

### 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.
- Discuss a plan for the student to receive missing vaccines.
- Remind parents to submit immunization information for children online ([durham.ca/immunize](https://durham.ca/immunize))

### Scenarios to be aware of

- If Tdap-IPV 4-6-year booster was given before the student's fourth birthday, the student will require another dose.
- If MMR was given before the student's first birthday, the student will require another dose.
- If live vaccines were given **too close together** (e.g., Varicella, MMR), a booster is required for the **2nd vaccine** given. For minimum intervals, refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).
- Students in grades 7 to 12 require **one dose** of Men-C-ACYW135 (e.g., Nimenrix®). Do **not** administer Men-C-C as a substitute for Men-C-ACYW135. Men-C-ACYW135 can be ordered using the form [School- Based Vaccine Batch Order Form](#) (or [durham.ca/HCP](https://durham.ca/HCP), Forms, Order)
- Any dose(s) of oral polio vaccine (OPV) received on or after April 1, 2016, should be considered invalid. These students may require an IPV to be up to date. Please refer to [FAX About...Recommendations for Children Previously Immunized with Oral Polio Vaccine](#)
- Please follow the catch-up schedules according to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario for students who initiated vaccines after one year of age.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

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



- If a child cannot receive immunization(s) for medical reasons, download and complete the form [Statement of Medical Exemption - Immunization of School Pupils Act](#).

The following information is provided as a reference when providing vaccines containing diphtheria and pertussis to school-aged clients.

## Should I give DTaP-IPV-Hib or Tdap-IPV to my school aged client?

### Antigen levels

Antigen levels vary significantly for diphtheria and pertussis depending on which vaccine is given. The amount of antigen in the vaccine affects the immune response. Younger children require vaccines containing higher antigen levels to ensure adequate protection. In general, the capitalized letter (e.g., D) contains a larger amount of antigen than the lower-case letter (e.g., d)

Antigen active ingredient	DTaP-IPV-Hib (Pediacef)	Tdap-IPV (Adacel-Polio)
Diphtheria Toxoid	15 Lf (limit of flocculation)	2 Lf
Acellular Pertussis Toxoid	20 ug	2.5 ug

### Who gets what?

- For children starting and completing primary series **before age 7**:
  - Ensure the child has a minimum of 3 valid **DTaP-IPV-Hib** (this is the **primary series**)
  - Give **Tdap-IPV** as a booster dose **AFTER** primary series is completed, **AND** if the client is **at least 4 years of age**
- For children starting immunization **prior to age 7 but completing after age 7**:
  - Give **DTaP-IPV-Hib** dose(s) as per recommended intervals, but once child reaches 7 years of age **switch over** to **Tdap-IPV** to complete their catch-up series
- For children starting immunization **on or after age 7**:
  - Use **Tdap-IPV** as catch-up

In summary, children under age 7 need 3 **larger** antigen doses of diphtheria and pertussis. Please review their record before reaching for Tdap-IPV. For minimum intervals and additional information, refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).

### Additional Information

If you have any questions about what to administer after reviewing the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#), please contact your immunization nurse.

November 4, 2024