

*October 5, 2021*

Dear Parent or Guardian of a Grade 7 Student,

This fall, the Brant County Health Unit will be at your child’s school offering free vaccinations to Grade 7 students for **hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV)** and **meningitis**.

These vaccines greatly reduce the risk of your child getting sick with these diseases as well as certain types of cancers. They are safe, effective, and recommended as part of Ontario’s Routine Immunization Schedule. The meningitis vaccine is required by law for all children, Grade 7 and older, attending school in Ontario, unless otherwise exempted. This vaccine (Men-C-ACYW-135) is different than the meningitis vaccination routinely provided at one year of age – the Grade 7 vaccine provides more protection. To ensure that individuals remain safe from vaccine preventable diseases and to maintain a high level of community protection, it is important that routine vaccinations are maintained despite COVID-19. Vaccines can prevent illnesses that can lead to hospitalization and significant complications in individuals. Vaccines can also prevent outbreaks, which can impact communities and particularly affect more vulnerable populations.

If your child has received or is planning to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please note the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has determined that COVID-19 vaccines may be administered at any time before, any time after, or at the same time as a non-COVID-19 vaccine(s). This includes the vaccines the Brant County Health Unit will be offering to all Grade 7 students. Please note the Brant County Health Unit will **not** be offering the COVID-19 vaccine during these school vaccine clinics. If your child is interested and eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination, you may visit [www.bchu.org/COVID19Vaccines](http://www.bchu.org/COVID19Vaccines) to book an appointment, or   
find information on our ongoing COVID-19 vaccination pop-up clinics (no appointment necessary).

Please review the vaccine fact sheets on our website as follows:

Hepatitis B: [www.bchu.org/HepB-FactSheet](http://www.bchu.org/HepB-FactSheet)

HPV: [www.bchu.org/HPV-FactSheet](http://www.bchu.org/HPV-FactSheet)

Meningitis [www.bchu.org/MenC-FactSheet](http://www.bchu.org/MenC-FactSheet)

The meningitis vaccine requires one dose, and the hepatitis B and HPV vaccines require two doses. We are planning to return to your child’s school in the spring to provide the second dose.

**Please visit the following link to provide your consent for Brant County Health Unit to administer each vaccination no later than Monday, October 11, 2021:** [**www.bchu.org/SchoolVaccinationConsent**](http://www.bchu.org/SchoolVaccinationConsent).

If your child is not attending school in person, vaccinations can be received at the Brant County Health Unit by appointment. Please contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 to schedule this visit. If you wish for your child to get vaccinated by a family doctor, please contact their office directly.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.bchu.org](http://www.bchu.org/) or contact us at 519-753-4937 ext. 451 if you have any questions. To find out when we’ll be at your child’s school, visit [www.bchu.org/SchoolClinics](http://www.bchu.org/SchoolClinics).

Sincerely,

Diagram

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Dr. Rebecca Comley

Medical Officer of Health