

Ministry of Health

Office of Chief Medical Officer
of Health, Public Health

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RE: IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL OPERATORS AND PRINCIPALS

Dear Private School Operators and Principals,

I am writing to request your collaboration regarding immunization requirements for school operators. Obligations within Regulation 645 under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>) state:

“For the purposes of assisting in the accurate maintenance of records of immunization, every person who operates a school shall submit reports containing records for each pupil in the school to the medical officer of health for the health unit in which the school is located.”

As per the legislation, the meaning of “school” includes a “private school” as defined in the subsection 1 (1) of the Education Act.

In addition, a local medical officer of health may require a school operator to exclude from the school, pupils who are not adequately immunized or have not provided immunization information to the local public health unit.

How to ensure you are meeting immunization requirements of the ISPA:

When your local public health unit contacts you, please work in partnership to:

1. provide student information as requested by the local medical officer of health
2. assist in dissemination of important vaccination and public health information as requested by the local health unit

3. assist in supporting any suspension or exclusion orders that the local medical officer of health issues under the authority of the ISPA or the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)

Your collaboration in maintaining compliance under the ISPA and working in partnership with your local public health unit is greatly appreciated. It enables access to data required for routine immunization record checks. Of even greater importance, it allows public health authorities to act quickly if there are cases and outbreaks of diseases in schools that require urgent local medical officer of health response.

We thank you for your continued support towards ensuring the health and safety of our schools and communities. For questions or further information, please contact your local [public health unit](#). A list of public health units is available at: [Public Health Unit locations | ontario.ca](#)

Yours truly,



Dr. Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health

Attachments

c: Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOH
Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, MOH