

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GRADE 7 VACCINATIONS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) provides free vaccinations to Grade 7 students in the schools in the fall and in the spring.

**The vaccine clinic at Gateway Drive Public School is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2023.**

Students in Grade 7 are offered three important vaccines that help to protect them from:

- **Meningococcal disease**
  - Protects against 4 of the most common strains of meningococcal disease (A, C, Y, and W135) that can lead to meningitis, a bacterial infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord that is extremely contagious and potentially fatal.
- **Hepatitis B**
  - Protects against liver cancer and liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus. This vaccine is often required or recommended for travel, post-secondary school, and certain jobs.
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**
  - Protects against cancers of the head, neck, genitals, and anus, as well as warts, all associated with 9 different and very common strains of the human papillomavirus

I ask that you:

- Review the vaccine information: [English](#) | [français \(French\)](#)  
[አማርኛ \(Amharic\)](#) | [عربي \(Arabic\)](#) | [دری \(Dari\)](#) | [हिन्दी \(Hindi\)](#) | [नेपाली \(Nepali\)](#)  
[español \(Spanish\)](#) | [tagalog](#) | [ትግርኛ \(Tigrinya\)](#) | [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)
- **Complete the online consent form for your child as soon as possible:**

**START CONSENT**

[www.wdgppublichealth.ca/gr7consent](http://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/gr7consent)

I strongly recommend that you have your child vaccinated against these diseases. These vaccines are safe and effective and greatly reduce the risk of potentially life-threatening diseases when a completed series has been received.

Please ensure you fill out the attached consent form today. It's important to indicate if you want your child to receive the vaccinations or not. If your child already has received one or more of the vaccines, please make note of this on the consent form.

Public Health wants school vaccinations to be a positive experience for students. WDG Public Health uses the **CARD (Comfort, Ask, Relax, Distract)** system to reduce needle fear and anxiety, as some students may be nervous about getting a needle. CARD invites children to choose coping strategies in each letter category to help them have a positive vaccination experience. Learn more about the CARD system at [www.cardsystem.ca](http://www.cardsystem.ca)

If you have questions regarding this program or require assistance completing the consent form, please contact Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006 to speak with a Public Health Nurse. For more information please visit [www.wdgppublichealth.ca/immunizegr7](http://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/immunizegr7)

Sincerely,



**Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, MD, CCFP, MPH, FRCPC**

**Associate Medical Officer of Health**