

2022-23 Record Review

Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) program

Meningococcal Disease

Last updated: December 23, 2022

As part of Toronto Public Health's continued response to an [outbreak of invasive meningococcal C disease](#), residents 20 to 36 years of age are advised to check their immunization record to confirm they have received a dose of meningococcal vaccine. If not, please contact your healthcare provider or [book an appointment](#) at a City-run clinic.

Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. Normally, some people carry this bacteria in their throat or nose without getting sick. In rare cases this bacteria can cause serious disease and may spread to others. It can lead to an infection of the brain, spinal cord and blood, as well as complications like hearing loss, brain damage, loss of limbs and even death.

columbus > public health > **measles information**



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INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There is a measles outbreak in central Ohio. Measles is a very contagious and serious illness. The MMR vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing measles. MMR vaccines are available at Columbus Public Health during regular vaccine clinic hours and at Franklin County Public Health by appointment only. Children also can get MMR vaccines from their pediatrician or medical home. Learn more below.

[Program Information](#)

Measles vaccination rates in Canada have decreased, PHAC says amid global concern



By **Saba Aziz & Sean Boynton** • Global News

Posted November 24, 2022 8:49 pm · Updated November 25, 2022 1:14 pm



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 [COVID-19 Info](#) | Continuous masking remains in effect at all AHS, APL and Covenant facilities provincially.

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Pertussis outbreak declared in South Zone

January 26, 2023

LETHBRIDGE – Alberta Health Services (AHS) has declared an outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough) in the central part of the South Zone and is reminding all people of the importance of immunization, particularly in small children, to prevent further illness.

Communities impacted at this time involve those spanning the County of Lethbridge, Coaldale, Taber, Vauxhall, Grassy Lake and Bow Island. These are communities with significantly low childhood immunization rates. By age two, children should have received four doses of pertussis- vaccine, and in some of these areas only one-third of two-year-old children have.

Cost Effectiveness of Vaccination

- Healthcare costs for treating vaccine-preventable diseases are typically much greater than the cost of vaccination programs
- The cost savings for several vaccines in Canada range from \$6 - \$45 for every dollar spent on vaccination programs
- Overall, **vaccination programs provide a net economic benefit**

Public Health's Role in Immunizations

- Offer vaccinations in school setting
 - Immunization of School Pupils Act - a key element we will discuss
- Run general vaccination clinics in the community
- Distribute vaccines to all primary care providers
- Follow-up on reports of adverse events following immunization
- Child care record review
- Coordinate occasional mass vaccination campaigns (e.g. the COVID-19 vaccination campaign)

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

- Law that requires students under the age of 18 to provide an up-to-date immunization record or valid exemption to attend school in Ontario
- ISPA doesn't require vaccinations but requires **reporting one's choice**
- Adopted in 1990 and last updated in 2017

Additional benefits to children and their families

- An up-to-date immunization record may be needed for
 - Attending summer camp
 - Travelling out of the country
 - Applying for college or university
 - Certain occupations or co-op placements
 - Receiving medical treatment
- If parents misplace their child's personal immunization record (yellow card), they can still access them by requesting for their child's records on our website

Required Vaccinations for Students

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act

- Diphtheria
- Measles
- Meningococcal
- Mumps
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Rubella
- Tetanus
- Varicella – beginning with birth cohort 2010

1. Statement of Medical Exemption

Completed and signed by a health care provider **only if** the vaccine is deemed to be **unsafe** or **unnecessary** for the student

2. Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief

Parent must complete a video education session, fill the applicable form and have it **witnessed by a commissioner** for taking affidavits

Suspensions

- Students who do not have an up-to-date immunization record or valid exemption on file by the deadline will be **suspended from school for up to 20 school days**
- If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurs at a school, Public Health will use immunization records and valid exemptions to quickly **identify who is at risk** so they can be notified and excluded from school for their protection

Previous Record Review Successes

School Year	Pre-Suspension Compliance Rate	Post-Suspension Compliance Rate
2017 – 2018	84%	95.99%
2018 – 2019	86%	95.94%
2022 – 2023	57.7%	TBD

Compliance = % of students who are up to date with their immunizations + students with an exemption on file

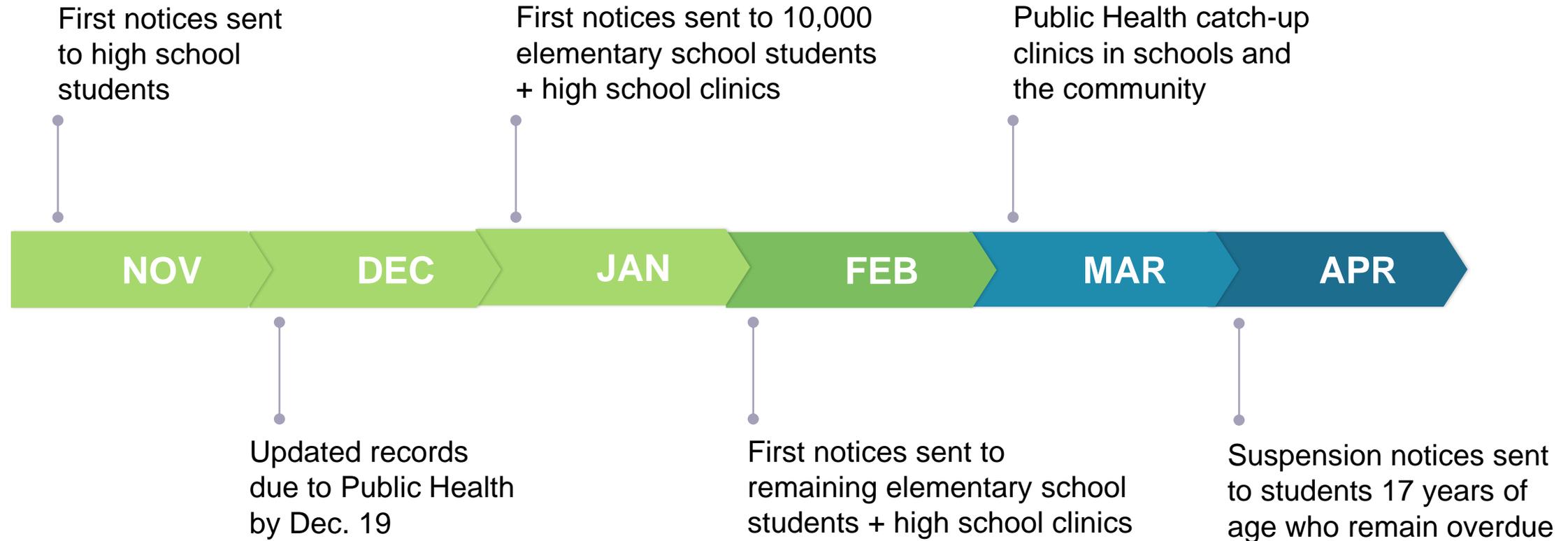
Over 28,000 students

in Niagara region are overdue and/or have not reported their vaccination information

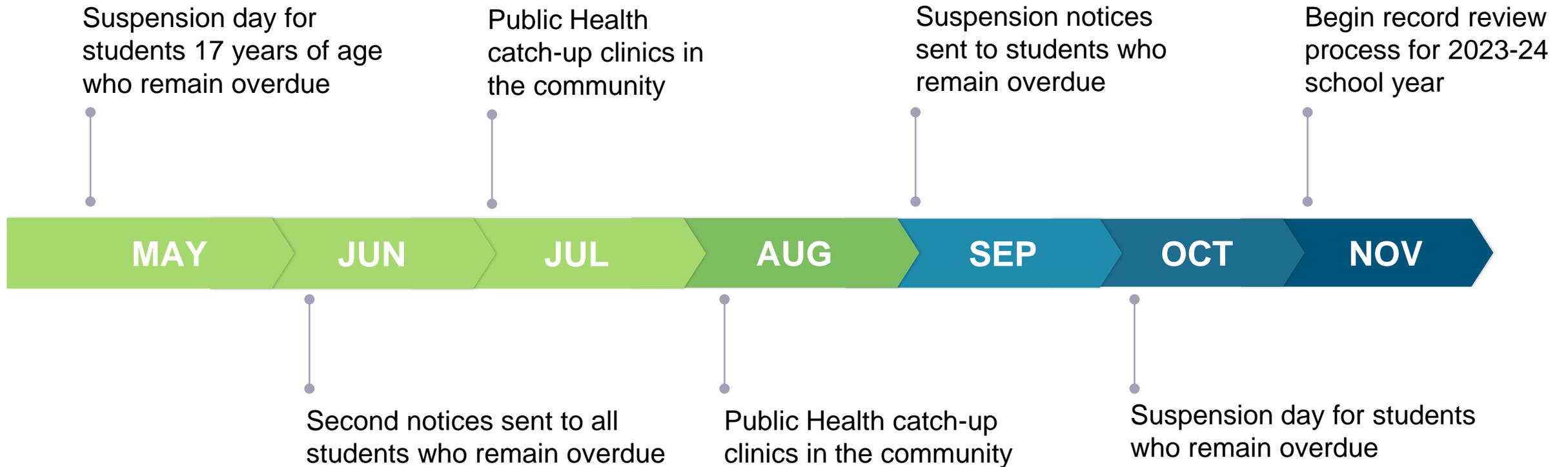
5,611 students

in Niagara region have no immunization record on file as of November 1, 2022.

Record Review Timeline – to date



Record Review Timeline - pending



How We are Supporting Families

Communication to the public through various media outlets

- Media release, news articles, radio interviews
- Public-facing dashboard available online to see schools by municipality

Regularly keep school boards/principals updated

- Presentations, emails, Google Drive with supporting documents

Regularly keep primary care updated

- Memos, Physicians' Newsletter

How We are Supporting Families

Increased access to school-based clinics

- High schools, elementary schools

Increased access to community-based clinics

- Locations across the region on weekdays, evenings and weekends

Devoted additional staff and budget

What Success Looks Like

- Meeting national vaccination coverage goals
- Maintaining collaborative partnerships with school boards/primary care
- Community immunity and no outbreaks

niagararegion.ca/vaccines

Public Health

Vaccinations

[Report Online](#)

[Request Vaccination Documents](#)

[Vaccination Clinics](#)

[Flu Shots](#)

[Yellow Fever Centres](#)

[School Vaccinations](#)

[Vaccine Safety](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

[Contact the Vaccine Team](#)

Vaccinations and Immunizations

Got an immunization notice?

Public Health doesn't have complete vaccination information on file

[Update vaccination records](#)



[Children](#)

Requirements for children attending a licensed child care centre / home or school



[Where to Get Vaccinated](#)

Publicly funded immunizations and appointment information



[Grade 7 Vaccinations](#)

Report your child's vaccinations

Keep your child's vaccination record up-to-date using the [online form](#)

Vaccinations for elementary and high school students

We're hosting school vaccination clinics for

Immunization has saved more lives in
Canada than any other health
intervention.

– Immunize Canada