



Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 897
 Hamilton, ON L8N 3P6
 www.hamilton.ca

Public Health Services, Health Protection Division
 Vaccine Preventable Disease Program
 1 Hughson Street North, 6th Floor, Hamilton, ON L8R 3L5
 Phone: 905-540-5250 Fax: 905-546-4841

Hamilton

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Public Health Services works with parents and schools to make sure that all students are properly immunized. Immunization not only protects students, but also helps to protect all persons in the community from the serious effects of many diseases.

What If I Don't Want My Child To Be Immunized?

- The Immunization of School Pupils Act (RSO 1990), states that all students must be immunized against measles mumps, rubella (German Measles), diphtheria, tetanus and polio.
- If your child is not immunized for religious or conscience reasons, the enclosed exemption form must be completed, signed by a commissioner or notary public and returned to the Public Health Services.

What If There Is An Outbreak Of A Vaccine Preventable Disease At The School Or In The Community?

- Once your child's exemption form is on file, your child will no longer risk suspension from school.
- HOWEVER, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, such as measles at your child's school, your child will be excluded from attending school for the duration of the outbreak.
- All parents and guardians will be notified if an outbreak occurs, and an exclusion form will be sent to your home.

Why Are Unimmunized Students Excluded From School During An Outbreak?

- Children, who are not protected by immunization, are excluded from school during an outbreak to reduce the risk of illness for these children.
- Exclusion of children that may become ill from the disease causing an outbreak also helps to prevent others from getting sick. This is very important for children who may have reduced ability to fight infection, such as those receiving treatment for cancer.

How to Contact Us:

Office Hours:
 Monday to Friday
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

☎ Phone: (905) 540-5250
 ☎ Fax: (905) 546-4841

If you have decided to exempt your child from immunization(s) follow these steps:

Step 1- The exemption form must be signed by a Commissioner or a Notary Public. A Commissioner is available at the following City of Hamilton offices, at no cost:

- **Clerk's Office** (main floor of the Hamilton City Centre previously known as Eaton's Centre) 77 James St., N Hamilton. If you have questions, call (905) 546- CITY (2489).
- **Public Health Services**, 1 Hughson Street North, Hamilton, 6th floor. Please call (905) 540-5250 to make an appointment.
- Notary Publics are listed in the Yellow Pages. There may be fees for this service.

Step 2- Send the completed form, signed by a Commissioner or Notary Public by:

☎ **Fax:** (905) 546-4841 and then

☎ **Mail** the original completed form to:

The City of Hamilton
 Public Health Services
 Immunization Records
 P.O. Box 897, Hamilton, ON L8N 3P6