

Fall 2019

Dear grade 6 student and parent(s)/guardian(s),

Immunizations help students stay healthy by providing long-term protection against serious, even life threatening infections. Immunizations are safe and effective.

Please complete and return the attached consent form to your child's school sealed in the enclosed envelope.

There will be a clinic at your child's school on: **December 05, 2019**

Please return the attached consent form by: **November 14, 2019**

Routine vaccines provided to grade 6 students in school clinics

- **Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine:** The HPV vaccine protects against the most common HPV types that can cause serious health problems, such as various cancers and genital warts. It is a safe and highly effective vaccine that is offered to both boys and girls in grade six.
- **Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine:** The varicella vaccine protects against chicken pox infection. It is provided for students who have not had lab confirmed chickenpox disease or have not received two doses of this vaccine.
- **Catch-up vaccines:** If your child missed some vaccines when they were younger, these will also be available during school clinics.

School clinics are a great opportunity to make sure your child is up to date on immunizations. Some vaccines, such as the HPV vaccine are not usually available in physician offices, so if your child misses the school immunization clinic, please call your school public health nurse to make alternate arrangements. If your child has been vaccinated somewhere else, please inform the school nurse or your local health unit about the date and vaccine(s) given.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school's public health nurse **Laura Willms at 604-505-4383** or laura.willms2@vch.ca, your family physician or visit:

- www.ImmunizeBC.ca to learn about additional vaccines available for purchase. These vaccines, although not provided for free in BC, include vaccines recommended either for all children, children with specific medical conditions, or those who are planning to travel.
- www.ImmunizeBC.ca to learn about vaccines and vaccine safety.
- <http://www.vch.ca/for-health-professionals/health-data/immunization-coverage> to determine the immunization rate of children in your school.
- <https://iboostimmunity.com/> to test your knowledge about vaccines and earn vaccines for kids in developing countries.

For best protection, I recommend you accept all vaccines noted on the consent form and discuss those recommended for purchase with your family physician.

Sincerely,



Mark Lysyshyn, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health, North Shore & Sea to Sky