

## REGION OF WATERLOO PUBLIC HEALTH

### Parent Information Letter

for children attending a child care centre in Waterloo Region

Dear Parent/Guardian:

When your child attends a child care centre there are immunization, health and medical requirements under the Child Care and Early Years Act and the Health Promotion and Protection Act that must be followed. This information letter will outline your responsibilities in terms of providing the required information to your child care operator or provider.

### Immunization Requirements

- The Child Care and Early Years Act requires all infants and children attending a child care centre be fully immunized as recommended by the Medical Officer of Health. In Waterloo Region this includes: **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Haemophilus Influenza type B.**

### New Registrants

- When you register your child with the child care centre you will be asked to submit a form (Form A) and two copies of your child's immunization record. A copy of this information will be kept on file at the child care centre and the other will be sent to Region of Waterloo Public Health. Public Health maintains the immunization records of all children enrolled in child care centres and schools in a provincial database called Panorama.
  - If your child was not born in Canada, a photocopy of their medical immunization history since birth from their country of origin can be provided.
- If you wish your child to be exempt from immunization please speak to the child care provider. They will provide you with the required form for you or your doctor to complete. The form must be on file at the child care and with Public Health.

### Existing Registrants (Immunization Update Form)

Each time your child receives an immunization please inform the child care provider. At that time you will be asked to complete an Immunization Update Form (Form B). This is done to protect all children in child care, and provides your child care provider and Public Health with current immunization information in case of an outbreak of a disease at the centre. If there are no changes to your child's immunization status, an update is not required.

The chart in Attachment 1 shows the full publicly funded routine immunization schedule for children (up to four to six years) in Ontario. This schedule may change if your child misses any of these immunizations. Please review the chart to make sure your child is up-to-date according to the schedule. If you require assistance with reading the chart or

your immunization record please speak with your health care provider (e.g. family doctor) or contact Region of Waterloo Public Health at 519-575-4400 ext. 13007.

### **Illness of Your Child**

It is very important that your child be kept at home when they have any infectious disease, illness with fever, or diarrhea. Please report the nature of any illness to the provider, as certain infectious diseases must be reported to Public Health. This reporting assists Public Health and child care centre to reduce or eliminate the spread of any serious infection among the children enrolled in the facility.

### **Obtaining Additional Information**

There are many people who can assist you if you require more information.

For general questions about children's development and/or health issues, please contact the Public Health's Child and Family Health Division at 519-575-4400.

For questions regarding immunization please contact Public Health's Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program at 519-575-4400 ext. 13007.

Thank you for your cooperation in these important precautions which will protect the health of children in Waterloo Region's child care centers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang'.

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang  
Associate Medical Officer of Health

**Attachment 1**  
**Ontario Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Starting Immunization in Infancy**

Vaccine	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	4 to 6 years**
<b>DTaP-IPV-Hib*</b> Diphtheria*, Tetanus*, Pertussis*, Polio*, Haemophilus influenzae B*	X	X	X			X	
<b>Pneu-C-13</b> Pneumococcal Conjugate 13	X	X		X			
<b>Rot-1</b> Rotavirus	X	X					
<b>Men-C-C ^</b> Meningococcal Conjugate C				X			
<b>MMR* ^</b> Measles*, Mumps*, Rubella*				X			
<b>Var</b> Varicella (Chicken pox)					X		
<b>MMRV</b> Measles*, Mumps*, Rubella*, Varicella							X
<b>Tdap-IPV*</b> Tetanus*, Diphtheria*, Pertussis*, Polio*							X

\* Indicates required vaccine for entry into a child care centre

^ MMR and Men-C-Cvaccine must be given on or after the first birthday

\*\* Preferably given at 4 years of age

Adapted from Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2015).

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization_schedule.pdf)