

February 16, 2023

Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**

Hello parents, guardians, and caregivers:

Re: School Immunization Program (non-COVID) within Alberta Health Services (AHS) South Zone.

AHS reminder phone calls and texts about school routine immunization (non-COVID) are sent as needed to alert parents, guardians, and caregivers about returning paper consent forms for in-person school immunizations, or to alert caregivers about immunization eligibility.

Recently, consent return reminder phone calls and texts were sent to families for students in **Grade 9** for the diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Meningococcal ACYW 135 type vaccines.

Immunizations have begun for Grade 9 students, but your child will only be immunized if you have provided written or verbal telephone consent. If your child missed receiving the immunizations at school during the school clinic, the nurse *may* be returning to the school before the end of the school year as able.

**Other routine school immunizations (non-COVID) offered as a reminder:**

- Immunizations are offered in school in Grade 6 for Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus vaccine series each year
- Students in Grade 1 who have missed the pre-Kindergarten routine boosters can be updated at your nearest local Public Health office, please call to book an appointment
- Children who are home schooled may obtain routine school-aged immunizations at your nearest local Community Health office by appointment

**How to obtain routine school immunizations (non-COVID) for your child:**

- Sign and return the immunization consent form to your child's school as soon as possible if you would like your child immunized in the school setting.
- If there is one or more vaccines you do not wish your child to receive, write REFUSED across the vaccine(s) you do not want and return all consent form(s) to school.
- You may also provide verbal telephone consent to a school Public Health Nurse by calling your local Community Health office.
- Call to book an appointment at a School Catch up Clinic – offered in the communities of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Brooks, or book at your local Community Health Office.
- If you are unsure if a child is due for school routine (non-COVID) immunizations, please ask to speak to a Registered Nurse when calling to book.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Community Health Office. To find your Community Health Office, visit: [Find Healthcare - Search \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/find-healthcare)

If you have questions about school routine immunizations or to view the routine vaccine schedule, please visit [immunizealberta.ca](https://www.immunizealberta.ca)

Immunization and routine  
immunization schedule | Alberta.ca



Sincerely,

Dr. Allison Gonsalves, FRCPC  
Medical Officers of Health, South Zone  
Alberta Health Services

Medical Officers of Health, South Zone  
801 1 Avenue South • Lethbridge AB T1J 4L5  
[www.ahs.ca/moh](https://www.ahs.ca/moh)