

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024
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To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health
Re: *Immunization of School Pupils Act – Suspension Orders; Vaccine Resources for Professionals; IPAC Lapse at Home-Based Neurology Office in London, Ontario*

Immunization of School Pupils Act - Suspension Orders

To attend school in Ontario, the [Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990 \(ISPA\)](#), requires students to be vaccinated against the following diseases or obtain a valid exemption: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal disease, and Varicella.

Suspension Orders were sent beginning on February 2, 2024 to students who need their immunization records reported to Lambton Public Health in accordance with *ISPA*. To prevent suspension, student vaccinations must be reported to Lambton Public Health **before March 5, 2024** (elementary school) and **before March 26, 2024** (secondary school). If proof of vaccination is not provided to Lambton Public Health by the aforementioned dates, the student will be suspended from school.

Parents/guardians/students are asked to report vaccines already received to Lambton Public Health, or book an appointment with their health care provider or a public health community clinic. Please provide your patients with a copy of their **complete** vaccination record to report to Lambton Public Health (i.e., a yellow card and/or provide a printed copy of their complete record). **Please ensure to include the accurate Trade Name and Lot Number of each vaccine on the record.**

Lambton Public Health issued approximately 6,100 first notices and we are sending 3,947 Suspension Orders - this includes 2,630 elementary and 1,317 secondary students. Due to the volume of suspension letters, health care providers may see an uptick in patients requesting vaccines. Vaccines can be ordered online using Lambton Public Health's new digital vaccine order form: <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/vaccine-order-form/>. Health care providers are able to order and administer school-based vaccines to patients, including hepatitis B (HB), human papillomavirus (HPV), and meningococcal conjugate quadrivalent (Men-C-ACYW-135) vaccines.



More information about vaccine clinics, vaccine reporting, and the vaccine exemption process can be found at [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://www.getthevaccine.ca).

For questions or support using the new forms and health care provider web pages, email healthcarepartners@county-lambton.on.ca or call **519-383-8331 ext. 3568** to speak with a member of our health care provider engagement team.

Vaccine Resources for Professionals

The Ministry of Health [Vaccine Resources for Professionals](#) has several tools to benefit your practice and assist you in informing your patients about the importance of these vaccines and will be updated as new resources become available.

The Ministry of Health has released updated [Guidance for Routine & Catch-Up Immunization Services](#). Since several vaccines have age- or grade-based eligibility, some individuals may have missed the recommended vaccines under the publicly funded program during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance document provides details about eligible cohorts and timing for individuals to receive school-based grade 7 vaccines, adult vaccines, and high-risk vaccines.

IPAC Lapse at Home-Based Neurology Office in London, Ontario

On January 24th, Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) communicated an IPAC lapse occurred, resulting in potential exposure of blood-borne infections to the patients of Dr. George Rice seen at Dr. Rice's home-based neurology office in London, Ontario during the exposure period of January 1, 2019 to September 13, 2023. MLHU is asking the patients of Dr. George Rice who were seen during the exposure period, to consult with their health care providers to discuss testing for **hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, and syphilis** as a precaution. If a patient reaches out to you regarding this potential exposure, please confirm the following:

- The patient had a procedure with Dr. George Rice during the exposure period of January 1, 2019 to September 13, 2023.
- The procedure was one that would have caused exposure to blood or bodily fluids, including: injections, lumbar punctures, or bone marrow biopsies.

Once the above has been confirmed, please use the following MLHU investigation number on your lab requisition orders: **MSL-2024-00001**.

Please see the link below for the full MLHU media release:

<https://www.healthunit.com/news/Alert-Exposure-Blood-Borne-Infection-IPAC-Lapse>