



**Date:** January 6, 2025

**From:** Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health

**Re:** Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Process; Public Health Ontario (PHO) Enhanced Epidemiological Summary for mpox for 2024 (January 1 to November 30)

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## Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Process

As referenced in the [December 2024 newsletter](#), the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) compliance process begins early January 2025. Please note finalized ISPA dates:

**Jan. 3:** First notices will be sent to parents/guardians notifying them of students with overdue vaccination status.

**Jan. 31:** Deadline to report students' vaccines already received.

**Feb. 3:** Suspension Orders sent for students not in compliance with ISPA.

**March 4:** Suspension will begin for students not in compliance with ISPA.

Please note that certain vaccines recommended under the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario](#) may not appear on the ISPA notices of requirements for school attendance. Please continue to offer these vaccines to eligible individuals, including:

- HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine

Lambton Public Health offers the above vaccines in the [Grade 7 School Immunization Program](#). Students in Grades 8 to 12 remain eligible to receive these vaccines for free. Health care providers can order vaccines via the [Digital Vaccines & Supplies Order Form](#).

## Public Health Ontario (PHO) Enhanced Epidemiological Summary for mpox for 2024 (January 1 to November 30)

Public Health Ontario (PHO) posted their [Enhanced Epidemiological Summary for mpox for 2024 \(January 1 to November 30\)](#). Changing transmission dynamics are noted by PHO:

- PHO is monitoring for mpox cases that occur in “bridging groups” which are defined as individuals that do not identify as part of the predominantly affected population of adult men who exclusively report having sex with men. Bridging groups include cases who identify as male and report sex with opposite sex, identify as male and report both sex with opposite sex and sex with same sex, identify as female, or age less than 18 years with no identified risk factors.
- Compared to 2023, there has been an increase in 2024 in the proportion of cases occurring amongst bridging groups in Ontario, however, there is no evidence of sustained transmission.
- Risk factors for mpox infection reported by cases in bridging groups include having sex with more than one partner, having a new sexual contact, and engaging in anonymous sex.
- Anyone with a compatible clinical illness where mpox is suspected should be tested as per the [PHO Testing Information Sheet](#).

Ontario’s Ministry of Health is maintaining up-to-date [resource documents for treatment and vaccination](#).