

## 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR TO PARENTS OF SECONDARY III STUDENTS

Subject: School Immunization Program

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Dear Sir/Madam,

As part of the school vaccination program, certain vaccines are offered free of charge to Secondary 3 students. In Quebec, the legal age for consent to vaccination and other medical care is 14 years old. Therefore, your child is able to consent to this themselves.

Below, you will find information to support them in their consent process. For more information on vaccination and vaccine-preventable diseases, you can also visit: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/advice-and-prevention/vaccination/quebec-immunisation-program>

### **VACCINES TO RECEIVE**

#### **Diphtheria and Tetanus**

The combined vaccine used in the 3rd year of high school protects against both diphtheria and tetanus. Since these diseases are very serious, infants receive a vaccine as early as 2 months old against these diseases, but to maintain protection, a dose is offered to your child in the third year of high school.

#### **Meningococcal Vaccine**

The meningococcus is a bacterium that can cause serious infections, such as meningitis and blood infection (septicemia). A dose of the meningococcal vaccine is given to infants. However, since adolescence is a risk period for meningitis, Quebec experts recommend administering an additional dose in the 3rd year of high school.

#### **Hepatitis B Vaccine**

Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by a virus and can lead to complications such as chronic liver infection. A dose of hepatitis B vaccine using the combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine was administered in the 4th year of elementary school. The second dose of hepatitis B vaccine is scheduled for the 3rd year of high school.

#### **Chickenpox Vaccine**

Chickenpox is an infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Chickenpox is highly contagious, but its contagiousness may be reduced if it occurs in a person who has already been vaccinated. The vaccine will be offered to children born after April 1, 2009, who have not received 2 doses and have not had the disease after the age of one year.

## VACCINATION RECORD UPDATE

When vaccinating your child, the nurse will consult their file and vaccination record to verify if their vaccination is up to date for the following diseases: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, meningococcal infections, chickenpox, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and HPV infections. If your child's vaccination is not up to date, the nurse may then offer the missing vaccines.

Your child received a dose of HPV vaccine in 4th grade elementary school, and the second dose was to be offered in 3rd year of high school. However, Quebec experts now recommend a single-dose HPV vaccine schedule. This schedule provides high and similar protection compared to a 2-dose schedule. Therefore, the second dose planned for 3rd year of high school is no longer required. However, if your child has not already received a dose, they can receive it this year.

There is no risk in receiving multiple vaccines during the same vaccination session. This practice is safe and common worldwide. It is important to receive all required doses for optimal protection.

On the vaccination day, there will be information leaflets available for your child about possible reactions that vaccines may cause and how to alleviate them. These reactions can occur within 24 to 72 hours after vaccine administration and are usually short-lived.

**Scheduled vaccination dates for students at your school; Alexander Galt RHS will be:**

- **First clinic : October 10, 2024**
- **Second clinic : April 10, 2024**

Please ensure that your child has their vaccination record with them. The administered vaccines will be recorded there. The health insurance card is not required.

For additional information, you can contact the school nurse, [Nancy Pye], at [819-563-0770 ext 22066], or you can also visit: [Quebec.ca/vaccination](https://quebec.ca/vaccination).

Thank you for your cooperation.

School Nurses Team  
Eastern Townships Public Health Department