

June 1, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

Re: Immunizations for school-age children in the context of COVID-19

In light of the provincial state of emergency due to COVID-19, and the following interruption of classroom instruction, we want to provide you with information about immunizations.

In a normal school year, children in kindergarten and grades 6 and 9 are offered routine immunizations and catch-up opportunities for missed vaccines.

Plans were also underway this year to alert the families of children in all grades about incomplete immunization records, and to seek missing records and offer catch-up opportunities for missed vaccines. You should have received a notice about this in November 2019 that explained BC's new Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation (VSRR).

The COVID-19 pandemic may have led to interruptions in providing immunizations to some students in kindergarten and grades 6 and 9. It has also led to a pause in moving forward with VSRR plans. Please know that supporting your children to receive their vaccines is of utmost importance to us.

If your child is in kindergarten or grades 6 or 9, and they haven't received or completed regularly scheduled vaccinations, you will be contacted by Northern Health either this spring, or in the next school year with information about how your child can receive these missing vaccines. Clinic changes have been made to ensure safety and to respect physical distancing.

If your child's immunization records are not up-to-date, you will be contacted by Northern Health in the next school year with a request for missing records, and provided with information on how your child can receive any vaccines for which they are eligible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Dr. Raina Fumerton, MPH FRCPC
Acting Chief Medical Health Officer
and Medical Health Officer, Northwest HSDA
Northern Health