Re: School Routine Immunization Program within Alberta Health Services (AHS) South Zone

Hello parents, guardians and caregivers:

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

School immunization consent forms have been sent home this school year for grade 9 students for the Tdap vaccine (i.e. Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis – also known as whooping cough) and MenC-ACYW-135 vaccine (i.e. Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine which protects against four types of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease). Some immunizations have begun at school; however, most grade 9 students will be immunized in February or March 2025. We request you return school immunization forms to the school as soon as possible, if not yet sent.

As a reminder, other routine school immunizations (non-COVID) offered include:

• <u>Grade 6</u> – immunizations are offered in school for hepatitis B and the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) series. For those students whose parents, guardians or caregivers consented for the vaccine(s), we have provided first doses to most grade 6 students in fall 2024, and the last dose will be provided in spring 2025.

• <u>Grade 1</u> – for students who missed the pre-kindergarten routine boosters of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio combined vaccine, and measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccine, please check the <u>routine immunization</u> <u>schedule</u>. Grade 1 students may be booked for an appointment by calling your local community health centre.

• Homeschooled children may obtain routine school-aged immunizations by appointment at your local community health centre.

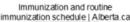
How to obtain routine school immunizations (non-COVID) for your child:

• 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 the school.
- You may also provide verbal telephone consent by calling your local community health centre and talking with a public health nurse.
- If you wish to attend with your child, call to book an appointment at your local community health centre.

• If you are unsure if your child is due for school routine (non-COVID) immunizations, please ask to speak to a public health nurse.

If you have any questions, please contact your <u>community health centre</u>. For more information, and to view the routine immunization schedule, please visit <u>Immunization</u> on MyHealth.Alberta.ca.





Sincerely,

Medical Officers of Health, South Zone

Medical Officers of Health, South Zone Melcor Centre, 200 - 4 Avenue South Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4C9



Medical Officers of Health