

Ensuring students' vaccination records are up to date

- Under provincial legislation, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) requires an up-to-date immunization record or a valid statement of exemption on record with Grey Bruce Public Health (GBPH) for all students aged four to 17 years.
- Students who do not meet ISPA requirements are at risk of school suspension. **GBPH works closely with schools, parents/guardians and health care providers to ensure vaccination records are current and prevent school suspensions.**
- This year, school suspensions will be enforced in March 2026.
- Public Health will be sending notices to parents/guardians of students who do not meet ISPA requirements and are at risk of school suspension. Your primary care office may experience increased call volume from those seeking immunizations and records.
- **Request:** To support Public Health's ISPA activities and increase student vaccination rates, we are asking health care providers to:
 - Review student vaccination records and offer recommended vaccines according to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).
 - Fax updated immunization information for all children and adolescents to GBPH at 519-376-7782 directly following administration. While health care providers are not required to report student immunizations to public health, providing these records directly helps to ensure that students avoid suspension. GBPH is authorized to collect this information under ISPA.
 - Provide parents with a copy of their child's updated immunization record. **In Ontario, health care providers are obligated to provide this service free of charge.**
- Any ISPA-related questions can be directed to a Nurse in the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program by calling 519-376-9420, ext. 3910.

Respiratory virus season update

- Grey Bruce declared its first three Influenza A outbreaks of the 2025-2026 season in recent weeks. Outbreaks of COVID-19, parainfluenza, enterovirus and rhinovirus are also currently underway locally.
- Influenza A (H3N2) subclade K is the predominant strain of influenza currently circulating in Ontario. Early data from the UK and Japan indicate the vaccine provides moderate protection against H3N2, with additional protection against H1N1 and influenza B. The vaccine remains the most effective protection against severe Influenza-related illness, hospitalization and death.
- Ontario is now seeing over 5% positivity for influenza activity, and the season is expected to peak in late December 2025/early January 2026.
- **For Your Reference:** The [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#) is updated weekly with information on respiratory virus illness activity both provincially, as well as in Grey Bruce.
- Ontario Health has published new clinical [Recommendations for Antiviral Therapy of Seasonal Influenza](#).

Resources for Primary Care Professionals

- **Measles:** The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) announced Canada has lost its [measles elimination status](#) as of Nov. 10, 2025. The status can be re-established once the current strain has shown no ongoing transmission for at least one year.
 - The latest epidemiological data is available in Public Health Ontario's updated [Measles in Ontario](#) report.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Dec. 1 marked World Aids Day, and also the start of [Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week](#) in Canada. In [2024](#), 1,400 new cases of HIV were detected in Ontario. Grey Bruce reports about two new cases each year. Awareness of local supports and resources can help ensure patients receive appropriate care.
 - [Ontario HIV Testing Guidelines](#) (updated in 2023)
 - [HIV Testing Ontario](#)
 - [Ontario HIV Treatment Network](#) – hosts the [VitaLink](#) program, which can cover cost of HIV-related bloodwork for precariously insured, HIV-positive individuals, or those who are at high risk of HIV and want PrEP.
 - [Ontario PrEPStart](#) – provides three free months of PrEP for people who are precariously insured, as well as additional supports for securing access to medical coverage.
 - [HALCO](#) – provides free legal services for people living with HIV in Ontario.
 - [ViiV Supports](#) – assists patients who express financial hardship in accessing ViiV Healthcare oral and injectable products—Apretude, Cabenuva, Celsentri, Dovato, Juluca, Tivicay, Triumeq—prescribed by their healthcare provider.