**Frequently Asked Questions about Immunizations**

**For: Children starting Kindergarten or new to New Brunswick Public School**

**Why should my child’s immunizations be up to date when they start school?**

* Immunization can help decrease the risk of getting a vaccine preventable disease
* To help protect others who cannot be immunized due to certain health related issues.

**What immunizations does my child need for school?**

* Proof of immunization your child received at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, rubella, mumps, varicella (chicken pox), meningococcal (meningitis)plus the pre-school booster given at 4 years of age in New Brunswick (if your child received all previous immunizations on time).
* If a copy of your child’s immunization record was given to the school before he/she was 4 years of age you will need to give the school an updated record which includes proof of the preschool booster.

**What information is needed on the copy of my child’s immunization record?**

* Child’s name; date of birth; Medicare number (if available)
* Vaccines and dates of administration
* If the record is copied onto 2 pages, the child’s name must be on both pages

**Why is it important for the school to get a copy of immunization records?**

* Unimmunized students or students who have health issues that put them at high risk for vaccine-preventable diseases may need to be kept out of school, if an outbreak occurs. This is for their protection and the protection of others.

**Where can I find the New Brunswick Immunization Schedule?**

* The schedule can be found at the following link: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/Immunization/RoutineImmunizationSchedule.pdf>
* Remember that adults need immunizations too. Check with your health care provider to see if you need immunization to protect your health.

**Are the vaccines and immunization schedules the same in all Canadian provinces?**

* No. The schedules may be slightly different across Canada.
* It is important to follow the schedule of the province that you live in.

**How do I get a copy of my child’s immunization record?**

* Contact the health care provider who gave the immunizations i.e. family doctor, nurse practitioner or your local Public Health office
* If you have moved from another province or country get a copy of your child’s immunization record from whoever gave the immunizations.

**What if I am still having trouble to get a record?**

Contact your local Public Health office.

**What can I do if my child’s record is lost?**

* It is recommended that your child be re-immunized to be sure that he/she is protected against vaccine- preventable diseases.
* You can sign a form called an exemption form and make note of the reason and the vaccines that you do not want your child to have.

**What does it mean if I sign an exemption form?**

* In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, without proof, it is unknown if your child is fully protected. You may be asked that your child not attend school during the outbreak.
* The school will no longer ask you for proof of immunization.

**What if I do not want my child immunized?**

* You will be asked to discuss with your health care provider or public health nurse the benefits of immunization and the risks if your child does not get immunized.
* If there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, your child may not be allowed to attend school during the outbreak.
* If you choose to not immunize your child, you will be asked to sign an exemption from immunization form.

**What is Policy 706?**

* Policy 706 is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy for all New Brunswick public schools. It gives direction on the immunization process as a requirement for admission to the public school system.

**What should I do if I am told my child has a possible communicable disease including measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough), chickenpox, meningitis, E-coli, etc.?**

* You should notify your child’s school and call Saint John Area Public Health Communicable Disease 658-5188. Public Health investigates these types of infections and can provide advice to the school and to you.

**If you have any other questions please feel free to contact one of the Healthy Learner in School Program nurses:**

* **Alberta Stanton Rousselle (Saint John Education Centre) at 506-643-2005**
* **Joyce Haley-Walker (St. Stephen Education Centre) at 506-466-7961**
* **Ann Hogan (Hampton Education Centre) at 506-832-6013**