

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS ... CREATING HEALTHY SCHOOLS TOGETHER

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2019

IH Services to Schools

For an overview of current IH services available to schools see the following links for the [detailed](#) or [graphical](#) versions.

Vaccine Status Reporting



Regulation

On July 1, 2019, the B.C. Government approved the [Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation](#) under the Public Health Act. This regulation requires that parents or guardians report the vaccination status of their school-age children to their local health authority. Schools are not expected to contact parents and request student records. Parents and guardians are responsible for gathering and providing missing immunization records to a local public health centre or the child's school for collection by the school nurse. Records provided to the school nurse must be provided in a sealed envelope. If parents/guardians provide loose immunization records, school staff are asked to provide parents with an envelope to place records in and seal. Immunization records are then to be stored in a secure compartment until they can be picked up by the school nurse. Schools are required to report any privacy breaches to the School Nurse.

Class Lists

Independent Classes Not Using STIX

PHNs covering independent schools **NOT** using STIX (student transfer information exchange) must continue to collect class lists from their school. The school nurse will request these lists two times per year - September and June. These class lists must now include all grades that attend the school (including any homeschooled students) to assist with the new Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation. Please note for all other schools, some nurses may still ask for a basic class list to use as a working document in order to help organize classes for immunization. We would appreciate your assistance in informing schools that sharing class lists is an approved process, especially when requesting updated contact information (authority of s. 79 of the *School Act*, and by virtue of the Student Records Disclosure Order (Inspector's Order I/07), made under the authority of the Independent School Regulation, s. 9).

School Immunizations

Consents

Personalized consents are used for each Grade 6 and Grade 9 student in both public and independent schools in all areas of IH. To aid with the transfer of current student information from the school data base to the health data base, **please ensure student's most current addresses and phone numbers are up to date.** Personalized consents provide the opportunity for students to be offered school immunizations and missing routine childhood immunizations. Paper copies of school immunization consents and supporting documents are sent to parents and students via schools. Other information regarding school immunization can be found on the [Interior Health website](#).

Catch-up immunizations

Interior Health will be providing catch-up immunizations to students in kindergarten, grade 1, 6, 9, 11, and 12 for the upcoming year. Catch-up immunizations will be provided in public health centres or school clinics depending on the area and age of students.



No Child Without Free MedicAlert Program



MedicAlert
FOUNDATION CANADA

Are your elementary and middle schools enrolled?

The **MedicAlert® Foundation Canada** is a charitable organization and the leading provider of emergency medical information services linked to customized medical bracelets and necklaces. They offer **free** MedicAlert memberships to students (**from age 4 to their 14th birthday**) through the **No Child Without®** (NCW) program in select schools. For more information see: www.medicalert.ca/No-Child-Without. Schools can enroll in the NCW program online or call: 1-800-668-1507.



Medical Alerts



Diabetes and Glucagon

School Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are available to provide a general diabetes overview presentation to all school staff upon request.

PHNs will also offer staff training and practice sessions in glucagon administration to select staff in schools where the parents of those students with diabetes want glucagon to be administered. **Parents are responsible** for providing glucagon to their child's school. **Schools are responsible** to select staff for training and alert the school PHN that training is needed. More information can be found on the [Interior Health website](#) and [Diabetes at School](#).



Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis training is offered to school staff by Public Health Nurses once or twice a year, and upon request. Nurses have demonstrator units of auto-injectors to share with staff during the training session. Another option available to school staff is to complete the 30 minute free on-line [self-learning module](#) from www.allergyaware.ca.

Epinephrine is the only treatment shown to stop an anaphylactic reaction, and the only treatment that should be given in the school setting. All high-risk children should have two auto-injectors available in the school setting. More information can be found here:

[Anaphylaxis Protection Order](#)

[Anaphylaxis in Schools and Other Settings, 3rd edition](#)

[Ministry of Education – Anaphylaxis](#)

Nursing Support Services (NSS)

[NSS staff](#) support children with special health care needs in the school setting. They will provide training and ongoing monitoring to school staff for delegated care needs of individual students requiring assistance with gastrostomy tube meals, Type I Diabetes, seizure management, clean intermittent catheterization, and oral suctioning. For more information see [the Interior Health website](#).

Parents are responsible for their child's care during the school day until training of school staff is completed.

A list of the NSS nurses can be found on the [Interior Health Public Website](#).

School Screening and Referrals

Kindergarten **vision** screening occurs [annually](#) during the school year.

The BC Kindergarten **Dental** Survey will be occurring during the 2020-21 school year. In addition, [Dental Program staff](#) will accept referrals for any student with active pain and/or infection.

For **hearing screening** concerns, referrals can be made to an audiologist at the nearest [Interior Health Hearing Clinic](#).

Free Condoms for Secondary Schools

Free condoms are available to all secondary schools and alternate schools in our health authority. These condoms are to support contraceptive education, sexually transmitted disease prevention, and pregnancy prevention. Information and forms can be found on the public website here: [free condom supply form](#).

Harm Reduction Information for Schools

The following resources are available for teachers and parents:

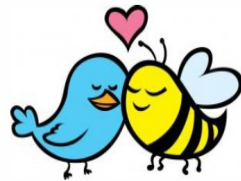
[Teaching Children/Students about Needle Safety](#)

[Opioid Overdose Information for Schools](#)



Sexual Health Resources

Teaching Sexual Health can be fun! [Supporting Student Health](#) Ministry of Education resources can be enhanced with information found on the [IH website](#).



[Sexual Health Resources for Teachers and PHNs](#) has links to lesson plans by grade and topic to help facilitate important discussion around consent, the gender spectrum, physical development, communicable diseases and human reproduction.



Integrated Tobacco and Vaping Program Resources

Tobacco Reduction Coordinators and Enforcement Officers provide support to tobacco reduction initiatives.

Tobacco Reduction Coordinators offer training to teachers, counsellors and other school staff wanting to assist their students to quit tobacco vapour product use.

Contact the Tobacco Reduction Program at tobacco@interiorhealth.ca for more information.

The following are links to information you may find useful:

[Tobacco Reduction Website](#)

[Tobacco Free Schools](#)

Tobacco Cessation Information:

QuitNow: www.quitnow.ca

[BC Smoking Cessation Program](#)

Community Nutrition and Food Security

Public Health Dietitians are available to support school districts working on initiatives related to food security, food literacy, the school food environment, and healthy school policies. Public Health Dietitians work with Health Promoting School Coordinators, where available, to provide resources, information about funding opportunities, review grant applications, as well as provide consultation and expertise on district initiatives.

Visit Interior Health's School Nutrition [web page](#) for information about:

- School food initiatives such as:
 - [BC School Fruit & Vegetable Nutritional Program](#)
 - [BC Farm to School Program](#)
 - [Cook it. Try it. Like it!](#)
- Resources to support nutrition education
- Information about the BC School Food Guidelines

Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act

This Act came into effect September 1, 2016.

For support with School Compliance please visit:

[The Interior Health Website](#) or

Contact tobacco@interiorhealth.ca

Head Lice

Information and tips for schools dealing with head lice can be found on the [Interior Health Website](#). We appreciate your assistance in informing schools that up to date resources can be found here.



Public Health Nurses are available to provide head lice education sessions to staff and parent groups upon request.

School Absenteeism



School absenteeism is one tool utilized by public health to identify outbreaks of disease. Children are often the first to be affected by circulating respiratory and gastrointestinal illness and are responsible for much of early disease transmission in communities. Schools experiencing absenteeism of 10% or greater should contact their school [Public Health Nurse](#).

Information sheets for respiratory and gastrointestinal illness for schools are available here and will be distributed to schools by their school public health nurse:

[Respiratory Infection in Schools](#)

[Gastrointestinal Infection in Schools](#)

Injury Prevention



[The Concussion Awareness](#)

[Training Tool \(CATT\)](#) is a series of free online educational modules and resources that provides training in the recognition, treatment and management of concussion for School Professionals as well as Parents, Players, and Coaches. Good concussion management is pivotal to minimizing the risk of brain damage and may reduce long-term health consequences.



The [CATT E-Learning Module for School Professionals](#) has been updated and relaunched! The new course has an updated look and design as well as new information.

[The Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport](#)

has been developed to ensure that athletes with a suspected concussion receive timely and appropriate care, and proper management to allow them to return to their sport. The guideline is intended for use by athletes, parents, coaches, officials, teachers, trainers, and licensed healthcare professionals.

[Active & Safe](#) is a new BC resource that allows you to choose your activity, be informed, prevent injury and stay active and safe.



Healthy From the Start Program



Healthy From The Start

(HFS) is a universal prenatal program offered through Interior Health. Teachers and counsellors are encouraged to provide pregnant students with information to allow them to connect with this resource. Information is available from the IH Website at [Having a Baby](#).

All pregnant youth and women can self-refer to HFS by calling toll free at 1-855-868-7710 or filling out the secure HFS online form at:

www.interiorhealth.ca/HealthyFromTheStart

When a pregnant student is referred to HFS, she will speak with a public health nurse, receive health screening and valuable information, as well as get connected with programs and resources available in her community. Receiving early prenatal care and connecting with supports and services is especially important with pregnancy in young women.

Eating Disorders

Disordered eating is common among youth and can go unnoticed for many months and years by parents, families, and school staff. Schools are often the entry point for recognition, early intervention, and treatment.

For more information on how to help a student with a suspected eating disorder see:

[Guidelines for School Staff:](#)

[Helping a Student with a Suspected Eating Disorder](#)

Aboriginal Resources

Mental Health Programs that FNHA's First Nations Health Benefits program supports:

<https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/mental-health>

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Counselling Program FAQ

For more information see: <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-MMIWG-Counselling-Program-FAQs.pdf> or contact the First Nations Health Benefits team at 1-877-477-0775.

To access counselling, individuals are encouraged to connect directly with a mental health provider from this list to schedule an appointment at: <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-First-Nations-Health-Benefits-Mental-Health-Provider-List.pdf>.

The provider directly bills FNHA, so there is no upfront cost to the individual to access counselling.

Additional Resources:

[School District Aboriginal Education Programs Contacts](#)

[B.C. Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements](#)

[BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success 2018](#)

[Jordan's Principle in BC Information](#)



Healthy Schools

The **Healthy Schools BC website** includes resources, success stories, and funding opportunities that assists in creating a healthy school. More information is available at: www.healthyschoolsbc.ca Interior Health funding for **Health Promoting Schools Coordinators** continues to be provided to 15 of the 16 public school districts and some First Nations schools in the Okanagan.

The [Health Promoting Schools Coordinator](#) list is updated twice yearly.

Public Health Nurses will be connecting with their designated schools to find out how they can become involved with Healthy School Initiatives. The list of [Public Health Nurses by school district](#) can be found in the IH Public Website.



School Contacts

As per the School Act, Section 89, these are the IH School Medical Health Officers (MHOs):

Dr. Trevor Corneil
Dr. Kamran Golmohammadi
Dr. Silvina Mema
Dr. Sue Pollock
Dr Karin Goodison

To contact the Duty Medical Health Officer, please call: 1-866-457-5648

Other Student Support Resource Contacts from the Maternal Child and Youth Health Team:

Interim Manager Maternal Child and Youth Health Programs:
Brenda.Marsman@interiorhealth.ca

Regional Knowledge Coordinator for Healthy Schools:
Valerie.Pitman@interiorhealth.ca

Interim Regional Knowledge Coordinator for Child & Youth Programs:
Anne.Hooper-Johnston@interiorhealth.ca

Manager Maternal Child and Youth Health Programs:
(returning February 2020)
Penny.Liao-lussier@interiorhealth.ca

Healthy Communities

Public Health Overdose Emergency

For more information see: [The Interior Health Website](#)

Radon Screening

Radon is a serious indoor air quality issue within the BC interior. Children are more vulnerable to the chronic consequences of radon such as lung cancer later in life. Testing for radon in public and private schools, as well as private homes, is important because it is the only way to know the level of radon. The best time to test is from October through March. Testing is easy. For more information on Radon Gas see: [The Interior Health Public Website](#)

Active and Safe Routes to School

Walking and cycling to school is an important way for children and youth to add physical activity to their daily routine. Members of our Healthy Communities team can assist and support School Districts, parents and other community stakeholders with for Safe Routes to School planning. For more information see: hastebc.org

For more information or to start a conversation contact Healthy Communities at 1-855-744-6328 extension 4 or hbe@interiorhealth.ca.