

Public Health Services & Resource Information for School Staff

Introduction

Public Health Nurses (PHNs) work in partnership with school staff, students, parents and the community to promote health and prevent disease and injury for school-aged children and youth. PHN services may vary within regions depending on the school district programs and health services offered within the community.

Your school nurse contact information can be found on the Interior Health Public Website, [School Staff](#) information page.

Additional information can be found on the Interior Health Website pages:

- [Medical Conditions at School](#)
- [Promoting Health of Children and Youth in School](#)
- [School Staff](#)

Current PHN School Activities

- Offering provincially funded immunization for students in grades 6 and 9.
- Offering general training sessions on topics such as anaphylaxis, seizures, diabetes, as well as specialized training on glucagon and Solu-Cortef administration.
- Consultation for specific students with medical alert conditions such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, or seizures.
- Providing information on various health topics and local community resources upon request.
- Infectious disease follow-up as needed when initiated by the Interior Health Communicable Disease Unit (i.e. meningitis, pertussis, measles).

Your school PHN can also provide information and connection to the following services:

- Birth Control Information / Counselling
- Free Condoms for your School ([order form](#)).
- Communicable Disease Information / Counselling
- Emergency Contraception Information / Referral
- Mental Health Information / Referral
- Naloxone Training and Kits
- Pregnancy Testing / Counselling
- Prenatal Counselling or Classes for youth
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Information

Additional PHN Activities

Look for opportunities to work with the PHN for your school. They may be available to:

- Regularly visit and connect with the school community
- Attend staff and parent advisory council meetings
- Participate on a Healthy Schools team
- Participate in health promotion events at schools
- Support teachers through consultation, in-service sessions, or partnering in the classroom
- Share curriculum resources available, e.g. [Teaching Toolkits](#)
- Provide health information on a variety of topics

Resources for Schools

Harm Reduction Resources

For resources visit the [Interior Health Website](#).

For more information on district-level virtual or in-person workshops available or to connect with a Youth Harm Reduction Coordinator, email: YHRC@interiorhealth.ca

Healthy Eating

Public Health Dietitians are available to provide support for school [nutrition & food security](#) projects.

For more information on district-level virtual or in-person workshops available or to connect with a public health dietitian, email: schoolnutrition@interiorhealth.ca

Legal Substances Program

For resources on tobacco, vaping or cannabis use, visit the Interior Health [Tobacco & Vaping Information for Schools webpage](#) or the [Cannabis Information for Youth webpage](#).

For more information on district-level virtual or in-person workshops available or to connect with a legal substances coordinator, email: LegalSubstances@interiorhealth.ca

Healthy Schools BC Website

For information on classroom and school resources as well as a link to [Teach Food First](#) and other comprehensive school health resources see [Healthy Schools BC](#).

Interior Health Contact Information and Services to Schools

Your local health care centre location and contact information can be found on the Interior Health Public Website [here](#). For more information about Interior Health services to schools see the [Interior Health Website](#).

Immunizations

Public Health Nurses provide school-based immunization programs (grades 6 & 9) in the school setting.

The Public Health Nurse will:

- Deliver Personal Consent Forms, in a sealed and confidential envelope for each student in Grade 6 and 9 (Note: The envelopes, that contain the Personal Consent Form and accompanying information are to be sent home with the student)
- Retrieve the Personal Consent Forms when they are returned
- Review each students Personal Consent Form at the Health Unit and assess vaccines that are consented for
- Conduct the school based immunization clinic, at the school, where the nurse will administer all vaccines that have been consented for.

For more information regarding school based immunization programs please see:

- Grade 6 students – [HealthLink BC Grade 6 Immunizations in B.C.](#)
- Grade 9 students – [HealthLink BC Grade 9 Immunizations in B.C.](#)
- [ImmunizeBC: School-Age Children & Teens](#)
- [Interior Health: School-Age Children & Youth Immunization](#)

Medical Alerts

Public Health Nurses are available for consultation in the management of care for students with life-threatening medical conditions as well as for teacher in-services and updates. (E.g. anaphylaxis training or specialized training on glucagon and Solu-Cortef administration).

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

Mental Health

The following are Educator Resources:

[Foundry BC – Resources and Workshops for School Professionals](#)

[Kelty Mental Health - Mental Health Literacy Resources and Curriculum for the Classroom](#)

[Interior Health Website- Positive Mental Health Teaching Toolkit](#)

[Anxiety Canada - Educator Resources](#)

[Jack.org - Provincial and National Resources](#)

[Province of British Columbia- Erase](#)

Prenatal Connections

Public Health Nurses connect young pregnant women with services in their community. Information can be found on the Interior Health website at [prenatal connections](#).

Special Health Care Needs

The Nursing Support Services (NSS) Coordinator is available to help develop care plans for students with medical complexities. They provide training and monitoring for school caregivers and also provide a liaison between school, family and other health professionals. To connect with the NSS Nurse for your school view the [Nursing Support Services contact information](#) on the [Interior Health Website](#).