

March 25, 2021

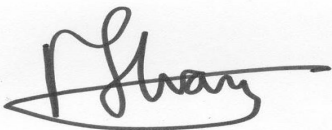
Dear Parent or Guardian:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on all Nova Scotians, including school communities. I want to provide you with an update related to the delivery of the Grade 7 spring immunization program which is a shared responsibility between the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) and the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA).

Students in Grade 7 receive the Tdap vaccine and their second dose of the HPV and Hepatitis B vaccines in spring. Given the current roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine and continued pandemic response by Public Health staff, school clinics will be suspended this spring. I want to reassure you that the Grade 7 immunization program is of utmost importance to both DHW and NSHA and we will work to ensure the eligible students receive these important vaccines. As it did last year when the Grade 7 immunization program had to be deferred due to COVID-19, NSHA Public Health is evaluating options to offer the program in the summer and/or fall of 2021. This will ensure youth receive their second dose of vaccine in a timely way to fully protect them from preventable diseases. Further communication will be sent when details are determined.

This has been a challenging year for everyone. I want to extend my gratitude to you and your children who have embraced this school year, even with all of the public health measures in place. With your diligence and the resilience of your children, schools have been able to consistently remain open. Let us continue this diligence in following the public health measures to ensure your children can continue learning in the classroom.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Strang  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Nova Scotia Public Health