

## Vaccination at school 2023-2024

### School: Howard S. Billings

Dear parent,

As part of the *Quebec Immunization Program*, some vaccines will be offered to Grade 9 students this year. In Quebec, the legal age of consent to health care is 14 years old. Therefore, your child can give their own consent for vaccination. This information is addressed to you in order to encourage a discussion with your child.

*Extract from the Civil Code of Quebec (1991, c. 64, a. 14): A minor 14 years of age and over, however, may consent alone to care required by the state of health.*

#### The vaccination clinics are scheduled on:

**1<sup>st</sup> visit: December 4-5, 2023**

**2<sup>nd</sup> visit: May 23, 2024** (for specific students)

- Please make sure that your child brings their vaccination booklet on the day of the vaccination clinic (or any prove of vaccination from a province or country)
- The Health Insurance Card is not necessary
- Wearing a short sleeve shirt is recommended

#### Two vaccines for every student

**The vaccine against diphtheria and tetanus** is recommended for all students, as they are very serious diseases caused by bacteria. For this reason, it is important for teenagers to receive a vaccine that maintains their protection.

**The meningococcal vaccine** protects against severe illnesses like meningitis and blood poisoning. Since it is more prevalent in teenagers, a dose is recommended to all.

#### Vaccination update

The nurse will check your child's vaccination booklet to make sure that they have received all the vaccines recommended for their age against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis A, hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV).

If some of these vaccines are missing, the nurse will be able to give them at school with the student's consent. For example, if your child has not received their 2 doses against HPV since 4<sup>th</sup> grade, they can receive for free a 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Gardasil 9® followed by a dose of Cervarix® 6 months later. This schedule provides a stronger immune response against HPV 16 and 18 than 2 doses of Gardasil 9®.

**Important:** If your child has a chronic illness or is immunocompromised, they should inform the nurse. She will then be able to recommend additional vaccines that are indicated for their condition, as well as when to receive these vaccines (free of charge).

If you prefer that your child receives their vaccines outside the school setting, you can make an appointment on **clicsante.ca**. Select **Vaccination**, then **Children and kids vaccination**. Select this service, enter your zip code and select **Point de service local – Candiac** or **Point de service local – Mercier, Catch up vaccination for kids 7 to 17 years old**.

You can find more information on vaccination and vaccine preventable diseases at Government of Quebec:  
<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/advice-and-prevention/vaccination/school-based-vaccination>

We thank you for your collaboration.

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