

# Roadmap to Catch-up Immunizations for School-Aged Children During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the delivery of routine childhood vaccines in primary care settings and schools in Ontario. To prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, a comprehensive catch-up strategy is needed to close these gaps in immunization coverage. A multi-pronged, and transparent approach that engages six key stakeholder groups must be undertaken to ensure equitable and efficient access to catch-up immunizations for Ontario children.

## Government



- Provide additional funding to relevant stakeholders to expand efforts for immunization catch-up
- Develop and disseminate a locally-adaptable communication strategy delineating the roles of relevant stakeholders in catch-up programming
- Invest in technology integration to create a centralized, electronic immunization registry accessible to all health care providers, public health units, schools and caregivers

## Public Health



- Leverage existing platforms to identify unvaccinated students and contact them to schedule appointments for catch-up programming
- Facilitate access to catch-up programming, including scaled up distribution of vaccines to primary care physicians
- Involve pharmacies as immunization sites for students who do not have primary care physicians
- Adapt COVID-19 mass immunization clinics and/or offer pop-up clinics for catch-up vaccination

## Primary care physicians and pharmacists



- Ensure clinic availability for in-person appointments
- Identify patients who have missed doses
- Contact patients who have missed doses to schedule appointments
- Communicate to families about precautions implemented for safe delivery of immunizations

## Schools



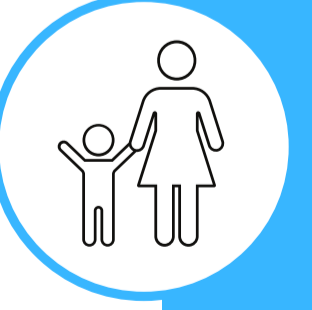
- At enrollment, send reminders to parents and guardians about school immunization requirements
- Partner with local public health unit to offer school-based catch-up programming
- Partner with community leaders to create tailored communications for catch-up programming and increase awareness about the importance of immunizations

## Community Leaders



- Work with local public health unit and provincial government to plan vaccination sites which are responsive to community needs and conceived with logistical and structural access barriers in mind
- Collaborate with local public health units and provincial government to develop and disseminate key messages related to immunizations that are tailored to community needs and concerns

## Caregivers



- Report immunizations to local public health unit after each immunization and whenever public health requests immunization record updates
- Identify access points for catch-up immunizations
- Complete catch-up immunizations for their child(ren)

[View the full report here.](#) Based on an expert and stakeholder roundtable.

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