



Huron Perth Public Health

School Supports Guide

2024-25



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Who is this Guide for?

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) offers a variety of resources, supports, and services to schools to promote the health and well-being of students and the school community.

This Guide is for school administrators and staff who need easy access to information on local public health supports relevant to schools, including contact information for HPPH teams.

Educators website section

We have a spot on our website just for you! Our Educators section at www.hpph.ca/educators provides the following:

- An overview of public health's role in schools.
- Access to web-based, community, and curriculum supports on various health topics (e.g., food and nutrition, growth and development, healthy relationships, mental well-being).
- Links to applicable HPPH forms (e.g., School Health Request Form, Smoke-Free Ontario Act School Incident Report Form).

We are always looking for ways to improve this section on our website to better serve educators. If there is a particular resource or health-related topic that you think would be helpful to add, please let us know.

School supports

Animal bites & scratches

HPPH offers support with:

- Investigating animal bites that happen at school.

We would like you to know that:

- Schools are required to report all animal bites and potential rabies exposures (including contact with bats) to HPPH for investigation.
- If a student is bitten or scratched by an animal, the principal should contact HPPH immediately.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Team:

Email: EHresponse@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3670

Dental screening

HPPH offers support with:

- Dental screenings by a Registered Dental Hygienist for students in JK, SK, grades two, four and seven.

We would like you to know that:

- The Oral Health Team has scheduled all school screening days for 2024-25. **Please check the provided schedule to see your school's screening date.** If your screening date needs to be changed (e.g., due to a snow day), please follow up with the Oral Health Team.
- Schools will be provided with the following documents prior to screening day:
 1. **Instructions for Principal and School Administration**, outlining what is needed from the school for HPPH's dental screening visit; and,
 2. **Parent/Guardian Notification Letter**, outlining what dental screening is, when it is taking place, and an opportunity to opt out. This is sent 10 days prior to school screening.
- After students are screened, they will be given take-home information about the screening and whether the child needs further examination or assessment.

For more information, please contact the Oral Health Team:

Email: oralhealth@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3561

Food handler training and education

HPPH offers support with:

- Facilitating food handler training and educational opportunities with staff and students.

We would like you to know that:

- If a School Nutrition Program is offering more than pre-packaged food, they need at least one volunteer who is a Certified Food Handler at the location when the food is prepared.
- The Safe Food Handling Training Course for Student Nutrition Programs was developed by the Ministry of Health for volunteers supporting breakfast, morning meals, and lunch programs. Those who are interested in the training can register on the [Student Nutrition Ontario](http://StudentNutritionOntario) website.

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Food handler training and education, continued

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Team:

Email: EHresponse@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3670

Food premises inspections

HPPH offers support with:

- Conducting inspections of school kitchens, cafeterias, before and after-school programs, and student nutrition programs.

We would like you to know that:

- Inspections are conducted one to three times per year to ensure compliance with O. Reg 493/17: Food Premises.
- Inspections assess risks related to food safety, and infection prevention and control.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Team:

Email: EHresponse@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3670

Head lice

HPPH offers support with:

- Educational head lice resources for parents.

We would like you to know that:

- HPPH nurses do not go into schools to provide head lice and nit assessments or treatment services.
- Head lice resources, including information on how to identify and treat head lice can be found on our [Educators](#) webpage.
- Some head lice treatments are free (covered by OHIP+) for anyone aged 24 years or younger who is not covered by a private plan. Parents/guardians can talk to their healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

For more information, please contact the School Health Team:

Email: schoolhealth@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3559

Health promotion & curriculum supports

HPPH offers support with:

- Consultation on health promotion topics for students, staff, and schools.
- Curriculum resources for educators on a variety of health promotion topics:
 - Food and nutrition (e.g., food literacy, food neutrality, body image)
 - Healthy lifestyles (e.g., physical activity, sleep, sedentary behaviour, outdoor learning, active transportation)
 - Healthy relationships (e.g., social skills, peer relationships)
 - Mental well-being (e.g., school connectedness, mental health literacy)
 - Substance use and harm reduction (e.g., smoking, vaping, cannabis)
 - Sun safety
- Access to health promotion curriculum teaching kits upon request:
 - Handwashing lesson plan | Glo Germ kit (Grades K-3)
 - Oral Health lesson plan and kit (Grades K-2)
 - Puberty toolkit (Grades 4-6)
 - Rainbow Food Explorers educator toolkit (Grades K-3)

We would like you to know that:

- Educators can consult the School Health Team with health-related questions or concerns for their schools and/or students. We may be able to provide information, resources or connect you with another organization/service. (Note: this does not include consultation on individual student needs, e.g., behaviour, mental health concerns).
- Public Health Nurses are available to support educators looking for health curriculum resources. You can reach us by submitting a [School Health Request Form](#) or by contacting the School Health Team directly (see below).
- Curriculum resources can be found on our [Educators](#) webpage.

For more information, please contact the School Health Team:

Email: schoolhealth@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3559

Illness and reportable diseases

HPPH offers support with:

- Reportable and non-reportable infectious diseases.
- Preventing the spread of illness.

We would like you to know that:

- Schools are legally required to report any suspected or confirmed cases of Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS) to HPPH promptly. Some DOPHS must be reported immediately, and some can be reported the next business day.
- Details on what and how to report can be found on our [Diseases Reportable to Public Health](#) webpage. A printable version of the DOPHS list can be found at the bottom of that webpage.
- Schools should report illness-related absenteeism that is higher than what the school would typically expect. HPPH will monitor absenteeism rates to identify potential communicable disease outbreaks in Huron Perth. ***If absenteeism related to illness is higher than expected in your school, please complete all sections of the provided Illness Absenteeism Investigation Form and submit it by e-mail to the Infectious Disease Team (contact below).*** Please note this process is subject to change; any changes will be communicated to you.

For more information, please contact the Infectious Disease Team:

Email: IDTeam@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3284

Immunizations

HPPH offers support with:

- School-based immunization clinics for Grade 7 students in September/October and March/April (Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus Virus, Meningococcal).
- School-based immunization clinics for high school students in February (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis).
- Inquiries related to required immunizations under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

We would like you to know that:

- The Immunization Team has scheduled all school immunization clinics for 2024-25. ***Please check the provided schedule to see your school's clinic dates.***

If your clinic date needs to be changed (e.g., due to a snow day), please follow up with the Immunization Team.

- **The 2024-25 suspension date for school students with incomplete immunization records is May 23, 2025.** More information will be provided in a separate communication.
- Parents/guardians should be advised to submit their child(ren)'s immunization records directly to HPPH. Records can be submitted online at www.hpph.ca/icon, by email, or by fax.

For more information, please contact the Immunization Team:

Email: immunization@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3558

Fax: 519-271-2785

Sexual health and human development

HPPH offers support with:

- Educational resources on puberty, hygiene, and body image.
- Classroom presentations on sexual health-related topics (sexually transmitted infections, birth control, and Q&A) for Grades 7 to 12.
- Education and promotion during specific weeks and school events:
 - Open houses
 - Grade 9 orientation day
 - Sexual Health Awareness Week
- Access to condoms upon request by schools.

We would like you to know that:

- Puberty, hygiene, and body image resources can be found on our [Human Development and Sexual Health](#) webpage.
- Sexual health nurses may schedule drop-in clinic hours on the same day as a sexual health presentation based on need and availability of space in schools.
- If a student in Grade 7 to 12 requires sexual health or harm reduction services but is unable to attend an HPPH clinic, arrangements can be made for an HPPH nurse to go to the school, depending on the space available. Services include access to birth control and emergency contraception, STI testing and treatment, pregnancy testing and options counselling for unintended pregnancy, and access to naloxone.

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School health and human development, continued

- Requests for sexual health presentations can be submitted using the [School Health Request Form](#).

For more information on puberty, hygiene, and body image, please contact the School Health Team:

Email: schoolhealth@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3559

For more information on Sexual Health services, or to request condoms or naloxone, please contact the Sexual Health Team:

Email: SHC@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3779 (Stratford office)
or ext 2406 (Clinton office)

Smoking and vaping incident reporting and signage

HPPH offers support with:

- Ensuring compliance with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* (SFOA), including conducting annual inspections within secondary schools, and provision of SFOA signage.
- Applying a progressive enforcement approach to SFOA infractions such as vaping on school property.

We would like you to know that:

- Student SFOA infractions can be reported to HPPH's Tobacco Enforcement Officer by completing our online [Smoke-Free Ontario Act School Incident Report Form](#). If you need a copy of the information submitted, print a copy prior to submitting the form to HPPH.
- Secondary schools are required to have a *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* inspection annually, usually in August or September. The inspection focuses on identifying missing and required signage for the school, which is provided by HPPH. The Tobacco Enforcement Officer will inform the school administration when they arrive at the school to complete their inspection.

For more information, please contact the Health Promotion and Well-Being Team:

Email: tobacco@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3578

Tick bites

HPPH offers support with:

- Consultation and identification of ticks found on staff or students at school.

We would like you to know that:

- Finding and removing ticks early is important. Please see, [How to properly remove a tick](#) from the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- In the event a student is bitten by a tick, save the tick in a small, sealable plastic bag or pill bottle and bring the tick to HPPH for identification. You can also submit a picture to [eTick](#) for identification.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Team:

Email: EHresponse@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3670

Vision screening

HPPH offers support with:

- Vision screening for Senior Kindergarten students

We would like you to know that:

- The Vision Health Team will contact your school to schedule screening days and provide all necessary information for your school and families.
- Vision screening will likely occur in Spring 2025.

For more information, please contact the Vision Health Team:

Email: visionhealth@hpph.ca

Phone: 1-888-221-2133 ext 3561

Do you still have questions and are not sure who to contact?

Contact HPPH by phone: 1-888-221-2133

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Calls left as phone messages will be dealt with on the next business day.

Contact HPPH by email: Askhpph@hpph.ca