

**CLSC de Montréal-Nord**

Montreal, October 5, 2023

**Subject: Vaccination of secondary 3 (9<sup>th</sup> grade) students.**

Dear parents,

In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, students can receive the following vaccines free of charge: the vaccine against diphtheria and tetanus, the vaccine against meningococcus, and the vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV).

**Consent for Vaccination**

In Quebec, the legal age for consent to vaccination and other medical care is 14 years. Your child aged 14 or older can give their consent for vaccination at school independently.

**Vaccination at School for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Secondary Students**

Vaccination at **Lester B Pearson HS** will take place on **October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2023**. For a few students a second vaccination may be required on **April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**.

**On the day of vaccination:**

- Your child should bring their vaccination record (if available). They will not need to bring their health insurance (RAMQ) card.
- Your child can receive vaccines against diphtheria and tetanus, meningococcus, and human papillomavirus (HPV).

**Vaccination is the best solution to protect your child against diphtheria and tetanus, meningococcus, and human papillomavirus (HPV).**

- **The vaccine against diphtheria and tetanus** protects against both diseases, caused by bacteria with severe complications. Multiple doses are necessary for proper protection.
- **The vaccine against meningococcal infection:** Meningococcus is a bacterium that can cause serious infections such as meningitis or bloodstream infection (septicemia). Children may begin to receive vaccination against meningococcus for free starting at the age of one. We recommend an additional dose in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, because adolescents have a higher risk of developing meningitis.
- **The vaccine against HPV:** HPV is a virus that can cause genital warts or certain forms of cancer (cervix, vagina, vulva, penis, anus, and throat). Your child likely received two doses of the HPV vaccine in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. If this was not the case, they may receive them at school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**All recommended vaccines are free, safe, and effective.**

It is safe to receive multiple vaccines at the same vaccination appointment. To ensure proper protection, all necessary vaccine doses should be given to your child. For more information on school vaccination, visit [Quebec.ca](http://Quebec.ca).

**Regular Vaccination Schedule**

On the vaccination day, the school nurse consults the Quebec vaccination registry and your child's vaccination record. They check if your child's vaccinations are up to date for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, meningococcal infections, chickenpox, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and HPV.

- If your child's vaccinations are not up to date, they may agree to receive the missing vaccines at school.

**Possible reactions after vaccination**

Reactions may occur after vaccination. They are usually not severe and do not last long. Your child will receive information about these reactions and advice on how to relieve them.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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