



# PROTECTING YORK REGION'S SCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGH IMMUNIZATION

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- York Region Public Health's Immunization Program
- Challenges facing York Region Public Health's Immunization Program
- Provincial Immunization Registry
- Council recommendation set out in report "Protecting York Region's School Children through Immunization"

# PROMOTION OF IMMUNIZATION IN YORK REGION

## PUBLIC HEALTH HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ENHANCING IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE AMONG SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

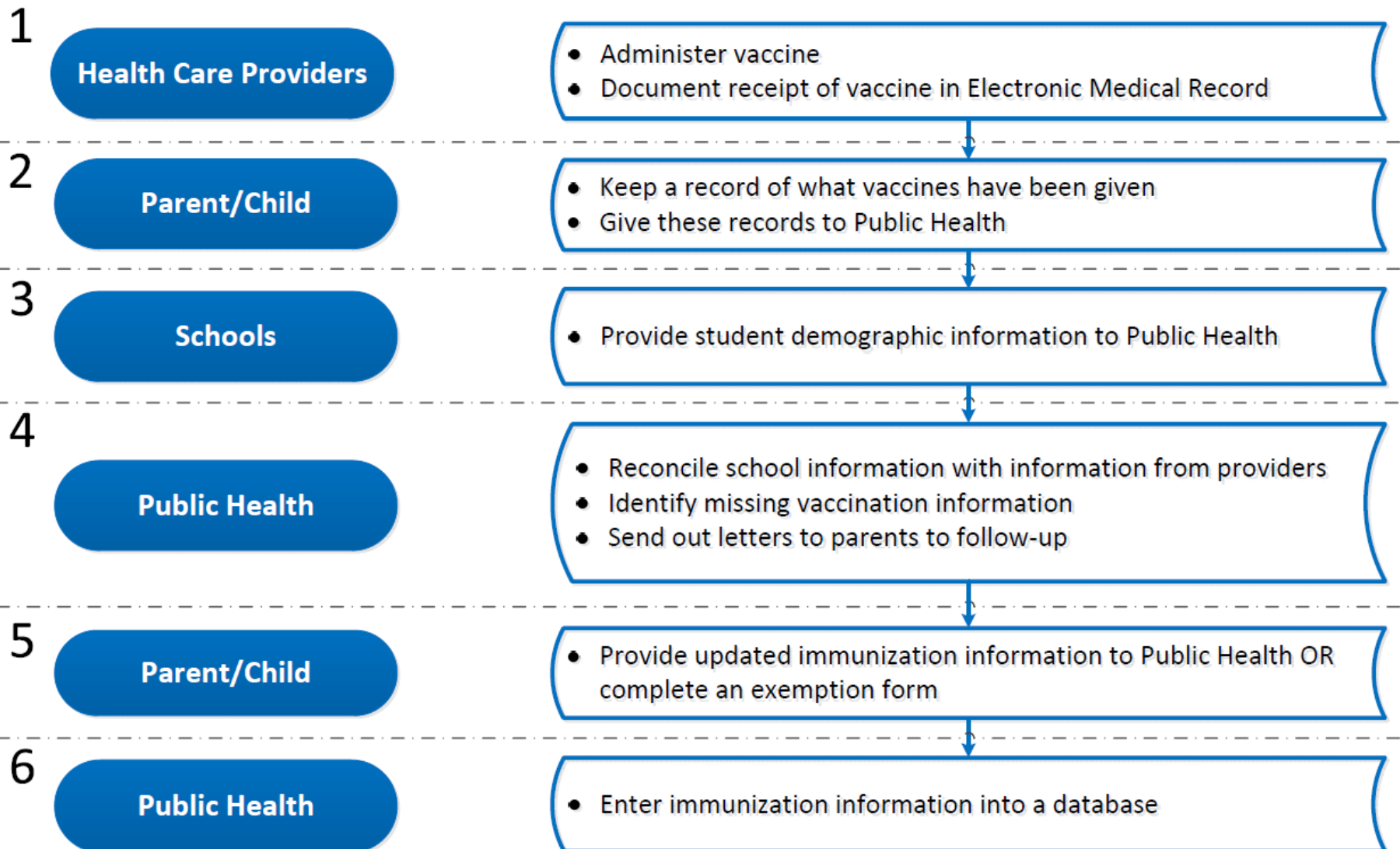
- Immunization is one of the greatest public health achievements
- York Region Public Health promotes immunization by
  - Vaccinating grade 7 students against: Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma Virus, and Meningococcal Disease
  - Raising awareness of the health benefits of immunization
  - Working with local clinicians to promote immunization
- Our most important tool to promote immunization among school age children is administering the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*

# *IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS ACT*

## YORK REGION'S IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN IS GOVERNED BY THE IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS ACT (IMMUNIZATION ACT)

- The purpose of the Immunization Act is to allow for an effective response to a case or outbreak of any one of these diseases
- The Immunization Act requires children under age 18 attending school to have up to date immunization records (or valid exemptions) on file with their local health unit to show protection against designated diseases:
  - Diphtheria
  - Measles
  - Meningococcal (meningitis)
  - Mumps
  - Pertussis (whooping cough)
  - Polio
  - Rubella
  - Tetanus
  - Varicella (chickenpox)

# CURRENT PROCESS FOR COLLECTING IMMUNIZATION DATA



# ADMINISTERING THE IMMUNIZATION ACT IN YORK REGION

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE IMMUNIZATION ACT GIVES US CONFIDENCE IN THE COMMUNITY'S PROTECTION

- Through the collection and assessment of student records, we know:
  - Coverage is estimated at **~87%**
  - Exemption rates remain low (**~2%**)
  - Suspension rates remain low (**~1.7%**)

# CHALLENGES WITH THE CURRENT PROCESS

## IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION IS SHARED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH BY PARENTS, AFTER THE FACT

- When a vaccine is administered by a health care provider, this information does not get shared with Public Health at the time of administration
- The responsibility for keeping and sharing records with Public Health later in life rests with parents/guardians
- It is resource intensive to follow up with parents/guardians to collect information after a child has been immunized

# PROVINCIAL INITIATIVE

## A PROVINCIAL IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY IS NEEDED

- The provincial government recently announced plans to create a registry that allows for the seamless transfer of immunization information from providers at the time of administration of a vaccine to Public Health
- This would:
  - Take the burden of reporting away from parents/guardians
  - Reduce resources needed for Public Health to administer the Immunization Act
  - Ensure Public Health has real time information and thus improves its ability to respond quickly to cases and outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases affecting school aged children
- Creation of such a registry is supported by the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)



# RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

## IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Regional Council endorse the position of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health in support of a seamless immunization registry whereby health care providers directly input immunization information at the time of vaccine administration
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, York Region Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health and the other 34 Ontario Boards of Health

# THANK YOU

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