

It's back to school time and that's a great time to ensure that our children's vaccines are on track.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is reminding parents that vaccine schedules are carefully planned to protect children when they are most at risk and when their bodies are ready to receive certain vaccines.

Ontario publicly funds 23 different (routine and non-routine) vaccines through its provincial immunization program. They protect against 17 diseases.

"Vaccination protects us from preventable diseases. As a physician, I've seen many children become seriously ill from such diseases. The best way to protect your children, and those around them, is to

Keeping Vaccinations Up to Date

make sure they receive the recommended vaccines at the right time," notes Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

Children who have not been vaccinated are at risk of catching diseases that can be prevented by vaccines, and they can also put their schoolmates at risk - especially those who cannot receive certain vaccines for medical reasons. Children in Ontario are required to be vaccinated against certain diseases in order for them to attend school, unless they have a valid exemption.

"Throughout the school year, children are exposed to many serious childhood diseases that can be prevented through immunization. When they get vaccinated against a certain disease, they build up their immunity, making

them stronger and more resistant to that disease. That's why it's important to keep your family up to date with the recommended vaccines," adds Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.



Stay up to date

To support parents, the Ministry has created Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule to keep everyone on track. The web page will help you learn about Ontario's free vaccine program, and make it easy to keep your family up to date with the recommended vaccinations. [For more details, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines>](https://www.ontario.ca/page/vaccines)