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DATE

Dear Parent

Re: Age of consent at high school vaccination clinics

Toronto Public Health (TPH) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) are working together to improve the health of students and school communities. Please be advised that beginning on <DATE> high school students, 14 years of age and older will be able to sign their own consent form at school based vaccination clinics. This change is consistent with current practice at surrounding school boards.

There is no legal age of consent for medical care in Ontario's <u>Health Care Consent Act</u>. Toronto Public Health nurses will talk to your son/daughter about the purpose for the vaccine, the risks and the benefits and answer any questions he/she has to make sure it is informed consent.

There are no immunization clinics currently planned at your son/daughter's school. TPH will notify you of any upcoming clinics at TCDSB schools to make sure you are included in the decision making process and will have time to discuss the issues with your son/daughter before the clinic.

Thank you for helping to create a safer environment for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Karen Beckermann Associate Director, Communicable Disease Control