

January 16, 2023

Dear students, parents and guardians,

We are sending you this email to ask you to watch for a letter from Northern Health in the coming weeks.

Sealed, confidential letters have been prepared for school aged children and youth for whom Northern Health is missing immunization information. The letters are personalized and will show which immunizations each student has received as well as those that seem to be missing. Students will be offered the opportunity to catch up on vaccines that are missing, and/or to update their immunization record.

Students who attend school in-person or who are home schooled will receive letters from their school by mid/late-February. Students who are enrolled in northern BC based distance education programs will receive letters in the mail to their homes by early February.

Letters will not be sent to students who are up-to-date with all recommended immunizations, nor to students in grades 6 or 9, as the records of students in these grades were reviewed earlier in the school year and communications from Northern Health were sent at that time. Letters will not be sent to students attending First Nation Schools, owned and operated by First Nations. Before the [Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation](#) is put into place in First Nations communities, more discussion needs to happen between the government and First Nations education and health organizations.

The intent of sending these personalized letters to you is to:

1. Encourage catch-up of missed immunizations, increasing the number of school-age kids protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.
2. Ensure up-to-date immunization records for school-age children so all records are accessible in one place, the provincial immunization registry (Panorama). This will enable targeted service delivery and quick identification of under-immunized and unimmunized students in the event of school-related communicable disease outbreak.

Thank you for keeping an eye out for this letter. More information about this mailout can be found on Northern Health's [Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation webpage](#).

Sincerely,



Dr. Jong Kim, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Chief Medical Health Officer
Northern Health