



Grey Bruce Public Health

School Supports Guide

2026-2027



**Grey Bruce
Public Health**

Table of Contents

Who is this Guide for?	2
Healthy Schools Website	2
School Services	2
Student Health Centres	2
Dental screening	2
Immunizations	2
Vision Screening	3
School Supports	3
Animal bites and scratches	3
Food handler training and education	3
Food premises inspections	3
Harm Reduction	4
Head Lice	4
Illness and Reportable Diseases	4
Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)	5
Sexual Health – Community Clinics	5
Smoking and vaping incident reporting and signage	5
Tick Bites	6
School Curriculum	6
Do you still have questions and are not sure who to contact?	6

Who is this Guide for?

Grey Bruce Public Health (GBPH) offers a variety of resources, support and services to schools to promote the health and well-being of students and the school community.

This Guide is for school administrators and staff who need easy access to information on local public health supports relevant to schools, including contact information for GBPH teams.

Healthy Schools Website

We have a spot on our website just for school health! Visit our Healthy Schools section at <https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Your-Environment/Healthy-Schools>. It provides the following:

- Access to web-based, community and curriculum support on various health topics.
- Links to applicable GBPH electronic forms (e.g., School Health Nurse Contact Form, Smoking & Vaping in Schools Reporting Form, Illness & Absenteeism Reporting Form, Disease Reporting Form).
- Links to School Health Newsletters.

School Services

Student Health Centres

GBPH offers support with:

- Providing confidential one-on-one health education and coordination of health services for secondary students.

We would like you to know that:

- School Health Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are present in all 13 high schools in the Bluewater District School Board and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board, and at École catholique Saint-Dominique-Savio, either weekly/bi-weekly or by appointment (depending on the school) during the school year.
- School staff are encouraged to refer students who may need support from the PHN, or students can book their own appointment.
- Services include healthy sexuality, 2SLGBTQ+ resources and support, healthy relationships, supports with smoking tobacco/cannabis, and vaping, harm reduction education and

supplies and healthy lifestyles.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Dental screening

GBPH offers support with:

- Annual dental screenings for students in JK, SK, Grade 2 and other selected grades based on the previous year's screening risk assessment.

We would like you to know that:

- The Oral Health Team has scheduled school screenings in October, November and December 2026. Public Health will contact schools participating in 2027 before the new year.
- Schools will receive screening packages, and any information that needs to be shared with families will be sent home a few weeks before the scheduled screening date.
- Following the screening, parents will receive a dental report card providing a summary of the results and an application for Health Smiles Ontario for families whose children meet the clinical and financial eligibility criteria.

For more information, please contact:

Email: dental@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '8'.

Immunizations

GBPH offers support with:

- School-based immunization clinics for Grade 7 students in the fall and winter (Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus, Meningococcal).
- School-based immunization clinics for secondary school students in December (*Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) requirements).
- Inquiries related to required immunizations under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*.

We would like you to know that:

- The Vaccine Team has scheduled school clinics in September, October, November and December 2026. We will schedule Spring 2027 clinics before the new year.

- Schools will receive details about the clinics, and communication will be sent home several weeks before the clinic date; immunization consent forms will be provided electronically to schools at the beginning of the school year through the school's electronic communication system.
- The 2026/2027 suspension period for students with incomplete immunization records will be March 23 to April 21, 2027. We will provide more information in a separate communication.
- Parents/guardians may submit their child's immunization record directly to Grey Bruce Public Health at [Grey Bruce Health Unit | Immunization Connect | Home](#).

For more information, please contact:

Email: vpd@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '2'.

Vision Screening

GBPH offers support with:

- Early eye health awareness, SK vision screening clinics, navigation and utilization of visual health services.

We would like you to know that:

- Vision screening clinics are conducted in partnership with District A-9 International Lions Club and offered to SK students in public school boards.
- Parents will receive a written report of the results following the screening.
- Vision screening will occur with the BGCDSD during November and BWDSB during the spring months.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

School Supports

Animal bites and scratches

GBPH offers support with:

- Investigating animal bites that happen at school.

We would like you to know that:

- Schools must report all animal bites and

potential rabies exposures (including contact with bats) to GBPH for investigation.

- If a student is bitten or scratched by an animal, the principal should contact GBPH immediately.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Food handler training and education

GBPH offers support with:

- Facilitating food handler training and educational opportunities with staff and students.

We would like you to know that:

- If a School Nutrition Program offers more than pre-packaged food, at least one person who is a Certified Food Handler is required to be at the location while the food is prepared.
- The Safe Food Handling Training Course for Student Nutrition Programs was developed by the Ministry of Health for volunteers supporting breakfast, morning meals and lunch programs. Those who are interested in the training can register on the [Student Nutrition Ontario](#) website.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Food premises inspections

GBPH offers support with:

- Conducting inspections of school kitchens, cafeterias, before- and after-school programs and school nutrition programs.

We would like you to know that:

- When food is made available within schools or before- and after-school programs, they are considered a food premise.
- Food premises must comply with Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act, Food Premises Regulation (O. Reg 493/17).
- Inspections are conducted up to three times a year to ensure compliance.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Harm Reduction

GBPH offers support with:

- Training regarding safer substance use, substance use stigma, naloxone administration and safe sharps disposal.

We would like you to know that:

- The harm reduction team at GBPH is available to provide training or resources related to safer substance use and naloxone kits and training to individuals who identify a need.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Head Lice

GBPH offers support with:

- Educational resources for schools and parents.

We would like you to know that:

- GBPH nurses do not go into schools to provide head lice and nit assessments or treatment services.
- Head lice resources, including information on how to identify and treat head lice, can be found on our website: [Head lice FAQs](#).
- Some head lice treatments are free (covered by OHIP+) for anyone aged 24 years or younger not covered by a private plan.
- Parents/guardians can talk to their healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Illness and Reportable Diseases

GBPH offers support with:

- Reportable and non-reportable diseases.
- Mitigating the spread of illness.

We would like you to know that:

- Schools are required to report suspected or confirmed Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS) to GBPH. Some DOPHS must be reported immediately,

and some can be reported on the next business day. A list of DOPHS can be found [here](#).

- If there is a suspected or confirmed DOPHS at your school, please complete all sections of the [Disease Reporting Form](#) online.

- Schools should report general illness-related absenteeism that is higher than what the school would typically expect. GBPH will monitor absenteeism rates to identify potential communicable disease outbreaks in Grey Bruce.

If absenteeism related to general illness is higher than expected in your school, please complete all sections of the [School Absenteeism Reporting Due to Illness Form](#) online.

For more information, please contact: Email:

schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca OR

infectiousdiseases@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca Phone:

1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '6'.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

GBPH offers support with:

- IPAC-related questions and concerns about their schools.
- IPAC education and training by offering information, resources and tools.
- Best practice guidance on implementing IPAC measures during periods of increased illness activity, such as gastroenteritis and respiratory infections in schools and classrooms.

We would like you to know that:

- GBPH has several glo germ kits available that can be signed out for free to demonstrate proper hand hygiene.
- GBPH makes recommendations and provides support to strengthen IPAC programs and practices.
- Evidence-based IPAC practices and procedures include:
 - Performing proper hand hygiene;
 - Ensuring thorough environmental cleaning and disinfection practices;
 - Applying routine practices and additional precautions;
 - Promoting immunization; and
 - Promoting respiratory etiquette

For more information, please contact:

Email:

schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Sexual Health – Community Clinics

GBPH offers support with:

- Free, confidential services at sexual health clinics in Grey Bruce for clients who do not have a family physician or face barriers in accessing timely services from a primary care provider.

We would like you to know that:

- Community clinics are available in Owen Sound (Mondays) and Hanover (Wednesdays). Hanover clinic has access to clinic physicians.
- Services include low-cost birth control and emergency contraception, STI testing and treatment, pregnancy testing and options counselling, safer sex education and access to free condoms.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'

Smoking and vaping incident reporting and signage

GBPH offers support with:

- Ensuring compliance with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* (SFOA), including conducting annual inspections within secondary schools, and provision of SFOA signage.
- Applying a progressive enforcement approach to SFOA infractions such as vaping on school property.

We would like you to know that:

- Student SFOA infractions can be reported to GBPH's tobacco enforcement officer by completing our online [School Offence Reporting Form](#). If you need a copy of the information submitted, print a copy before submitting the form to GBPH.

- The [Supportive Conversations Resource](#) is designed to help parents have conversations
- Elementary schools can request updated Smoke-Free Ontario signage by emailing publichealth@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.
- Secondary schools are required to have a *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* inspection annually. The inspection focuses on identifying missing and required signage for the school, which is provided by GBPH. The tobacco enforcement officer will inform school administration when they arrive to complete their inspection.

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Tick Bites

We would like you to know that:

- Grey Bruce includes several established risk areas for Blacklegged ticks, which can transmit Lyme disease. Other types of ticks may also be encountered and can spread disease.
See map here: <https://oahpp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/bb2f1ae3ae754de5801142e3569f11bb>
- Finding and removing ticks early is important. Please see: [Lyme disease: How to remove a tick - Canada.ca](#)
- Submit a picture of a tick to [eTick](#) for identification (samples are no longer accepted).

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

School Curriculum

GBPH offers support with:

- Curriculum and curriculum resources for educators through the [GBPH Health Schools website](#). Topics include:
 - Food and nutrition
 - Human development and healthy sexuality
 - Immunizations
 - Personal safety and injury prevention

- Mental well-being
- Physical activity, sedentary behaviour, and sleep
- Screen and digital behaviour
- Head lice
- Infectious disease
- Substance use and harm reduction
- Inclusivity and diversity

For more information, please contact:

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Phone: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.

Do you still have questions and are not sure who to contact?

Email: schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Call: 1-800-263-3456/519-376-9420, press '9'.



This School Support Guide was adapted with permission from Huron Perth Public Health.

