



School Newsletter Introductory wording for grade 9s

Introductory messaging:

The following wording should be included in school newsletters for grade 9 students early in September.

Watch for immunization consent packages for grade 9 students that will be sent home early in the fall. Please discuss the information in the consent package and involve your child in the decision to provide consent to immunization. This should be used as an opportunity for adolescents to start making decisions about their own health.

Although a child may be immunized with the consent of a parent/guardian or representative, a grade 9 student can make an informed decision regarding immunization regardless of parental consent or refusal. This is referred to as “mature minor consent.”

For more information:

- Refer to HealthLinkBC file # 119 “The Infants Act, Mature Minor Consent and Immunization” available at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/infants-act-mature-minor-consent-and-immunization>.
- A short video presentation on mature minor has been created for grade 9 students. It is available at: <https://vimeo.com/231149258> or by going to www.viha.ca/health_info/immunization/ → Additional resources → *View our video on grade nine immunization and mature minor consent.*
- Contact the local Health Unit at 250-519-3490 to discuss further.