



PUBLIC HEALTH AND PARAMEDIC SERVICES

99 Regina Street South
P.O. Box 1633
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Telephone: 519-575-4400
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www.regionofwaterloo.ca

VISION SCREENING AT OUR SCHOOL

2023/2024 School Year

Dear Senior Kindergarten (SK) families:

In 10 school days, Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services, the University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science, and volunteers from the local Lions Club and the Cowan Foundation will be offering a vision screening program for SK students at your school.

What is vision screening?

Vision screening is a series of three short tests to find out if a child may have an issue with their vision. Possible issues may include:

- trouble seeing an object up close or far away
- trouble getting both eyes to look the same way
- one eye being stronger than the other

To complete the screening tests, your child will be asked to look at or through equipment and no eye drops are used. All SK children will be screened by trained volunteers using tests and measures set out by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Please note a vision screening is not the same as an eye exam and your child should still see an Optometrist for a full eye exam every year. These exams are free for all children 0-19 years old who have a valid OHIP Health Card.

Why is vision screening important?

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) states that about 80 per cent of learning comes from what you see. Also, one in six children has some sort of vision problem. Vision issues can affect a child's ability to balance, be independent, play, and learn to their full potential. The eyes and brain form vital connections by the age of six. Therefore, it is important to treat vision issues as early as possible.

Will I get the results?

On the day of screening, a letter will be sent home with your child. The letter will indicate whether or not a concern was identified and what to do next. You may also receive a reminder notice 20 days following the screening.



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What if I do not want my child's vision screened?

If you would like to opt-out of having your child's vision screened, please submit an opt-out form at least 2 days prior to their screening date at: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/visionoptout

When you opt-out you will need to give this information:

1. Your full name
2. Your child's full name
3. Your child's date of birth
4. School name
5. Teacher name

Vision Screening Study

Researchers from the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science are looking into parent/guardian follow up to vision screening recommendations. Participation is completely voluntary and is independent from the vision screening program offered. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the study please to go https://uwaterloo.ca/1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3kn5eExtmMye4uQ for more information.



Study Information
QR Code

Questions

If you have questions about the vision screening program or would like more information visit Region of Waterloo Public Health's website www.regionofwaterloo.ca/visualhealth. If you have questions about the study or would like more information please email Leah Goodhew (Clinical Research Project Coordinator) at opt.clinicalresearch@uwaterloo.ca. If you have any questions about your child's screening results, please contact Public Health (519)575-4400

Yours truly,

Principal

Public Health provides vision screening under the authority of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)*. The information is collected by Public Health under the authority of the HPPA in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*. This information is used for the delivery of public health programs and services; the administration of the agency; and the maintenance of healthcare databases, registries, and related research, in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Any questions about the collection of this information should be addressed to the Chief Privacy Officer at (519) 575-4400.