

December 2, 2013

Dear Health Care Provider:

This letter is to inform you that pursuant to §402 of Chapter 170 of the Laws of 1994, I hereby establish a project to permit the administration of recommended routine immunizations in elementary and secondary schools at part-time clinics operated by general hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centers. In furtherance of this project, I also hereby waive that part of 10 NYCRR § 700.2(a)(22) that excludes from the definition of part-time clinic site the provision of health care services in elementary and secondary schools to students during regular school hours. This project does not authorize such part-time clinics to provide any services other than administration of routine immunizations.

Part-time clinics authorized under this project must otherwise meet the definition of part-time clinics in 10 NYCRR § 700.2(a)(22) and comply with the regulations pertaining to part-time clinics, including but not limited to 10 NYCRR § 703.6. These clinics must follow the established procedures for approval to operate. These clinics must comply with other applicable regulation, including regulation by the New York State Education Department.

Existing school-based health centers continue to have the authority to provide immunization services or to contract other licensed providers for this purpose. In accordance with 10NYCRR § 703.6(a)(3), part-time clinics will not be approved for sites with existing licensed facilities.

General hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centers that wish to operate part-time clinics authorized under this project must use appropriate methods for obtaining consent from the students' parent or guardian before providing the immunization services.

Immunization of school-aged children is a recognized benefit for children, their families, and the community for preventing or limiting disease outbreaks. This project will improve access to immunizations by allowing licensed medical providers to offer vaccinations in the school setting, increasing the availability of vaccine, and decreasing the need for parents to take time off of work or to remove children from school in order to obtain recommended immunizations.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect children through vaccination.

Sincerely,

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health