



June 24, 2016

Dear School Superintendent, Principal, Administrator, and Nurse:

This letter is to inform you about amendments to school immunization regulations at 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-1 expected to be adopted and effective on September 1, 2016. A copy of the "Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance" chart is attached to this letter, and a detailed document with questions and answers regarding the anticipated changes to the regulations is posted on the NYSDOH website at www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/.

Summary of Expected Changes to the Immunization Requirements

- Students entering grade 7 will be required to have received one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY; sometimes abbreviated as MCV4; brand names Menactra or Menveo), unless they have a medical or religious exemption.
- Students entering grade 12 will be required to have received a total of two doses of MenACWY vaccine, unless they have a medical or religious exemption. However, if the first dose was received at age 16 years or older, then only one dose will be required.
 - Doses of vaccine against meningococcal serogroup B (MenB vaccine; brand names Bexsero or Trumenba) will not satisfy the MenACWY requirement.
 - Doses of meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4; brand name Menomune), while not required, will satisfy the MenACWY requirement.
 - Some students with rare medical conditions may have received several doses of MenACWY vaccine before 16 years of age. Schools are encouraged to call the NYSDOH if they have any students who received multiple doses of MenACWY vaccine before 16 years of age. The NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization Medical Director is available for consultation upon request.
- Students entering pre-kindergarten, nursery school or day care on or after September 1, 2016 must have received immunization against polio in accordance with ACIP minimum and recommended intervals.
 - The number of doses of polio vaccine has not changed, however the regulations are expected to change to clarify that these doses must be in accordance with ACIP minimum and recommended intervals.
- For school year 2016-17, the following requirements will apply only to kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8:
 - Four doses of poliomyelitis vaccine. However, if the third dose was given at four years of age or older, only three doses will be required.
 - Students in prekindergarten, grades 3 through 5 and grades 9 through 12 will be required to have three doses of polio vaccine.
 - Two doses of varicella vaccine.
 - Students in prekindergarten, grades 3 through 5 and grades 9 through 12 will be required to have one dose of varicella vaccine.
- Children entering grades 9 through 12 in the 2016-17 school year will be exempted from the interval requirements if they had satisfied the requirements in regulation in the 2013-

14 school year. However, students in grade 12 will still be required to comply with the new meningococcal vaccine requirement.

Immunization Information Systems and Registries

All schools in New York State have access to either the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) or, in New York City, to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). Both of these registries provide immunization histories that clearly show vaccinations and dates administered. Invalid doses and forecasting of the correct timing for future immunizations are also provided for by both systems. Going to NYSIIS or the CIR should be the first step in checking on student immunization records as both will **automatically** report on whether the number of doses are age appropriate and whether the intervals between doses are correct. If information is not found in NYSIIS or the CIR, then school staff will need to manually review paper vaccine records for adherence to school entry requirements.

If you have any questions regarding these expected changes to the regulations, please contact the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization at one of the following telephone numbers:

Central Office - Albany	(518) 474 – 1944
Capital District	(518) 473 – 4437
Western Regional Office	(716) 847 – 4501
Rochester Field Office	(585) 423 – 8097
Syracuse Regional Office	(315) 477 – 8164
New Rochelle Field Office	(914) 654 – 7149
Central Islip Office	(631) 851 – 3096
Monticello District Office	(845) 794 – 5627

In New York City, please contact the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Bureau of Immunization at (347) 396 – 2433.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that all children in New York State are appropriately immunized.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rausch-Phung, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Bureau of Immunization