



## Department of Health

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August 26, 2015

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about recently adopted amendments to regulations at 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-1 addressing school immunization requirements. The amendments take effect on September 1, 2015. It is important that health care providers understand the changes to the immunization requirements because schools are required under Public Health Law § 2164 to exclude students from school who have not met the immunization requirements for school entrance and attendance. Parents look to their health care providers for information regarding immunizations, so it is important for providers to know the school immunization requirements.

Effective September 1, 2015, students entering school will be required to have completed all required vaccine series upon school entry. The only exceptions to this requirement are children with acceptable evidence of immunity, valid medical or religious exemptions to vaccination, or in the process of completing vaccinations according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) schedule. Doses of vaccines recommended for administration at four to six years of age, e.g., measles, mumps and rubella (MMR); diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP); and poliovirus vaccines, are now required to be received prior to school entry.

A chart describing the vaccines required for each grade is attached. *Please note* that children who received doses of vaccine before the minimum age or intervals specified by the ACIP schedule will be required to repeat the invalid dose or show other evidence of immunity in order to continue to attend school.

In addition, children will need to receive at least five doses of DTaP vaccine, or at least four doses, if the final dose was received at four years of age or older. Children seven years of age or older who did not receive a complete DTaP series will be required to complete the series prior to school entry this year with a dose of pertussis containing vaccine (i.e. Tdap), followed by tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) if additional doses are needed. This is in accordance with ACIP and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations and is the standard of care in the United States. A dose of Td vaccine given in place of the required Tdap vaccine will not meet the requirements to attend school unless the child has a medical exemption to receipt of pertussis-containing vaccine. A dose of Tdap vaccine received on or after seven years of age will also satisfy the sixth grade Tdap vaccine requirement. Cases and outbreaks of pertussis have increased nationwide over the last ten years; for this reason, it is of critical importance to ensure that all children are fully protected against pertussis in order to attend school.

Finally, all schools in New York State have access to either the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and/or the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). It is important for health care providers to keep patient immunization records up to date in NYSIIS and the CIR as schools will be using NYSIIS and the CIR to determine whether the vaccine doses required for school entrance and attendance were received at the appropriate ages and intervals. If information is not found in NYSIIS or the CIR, then your office will need to provide signed paper vaccine records.

If you have any questions regarding these 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

## 2015-16 School Year

### New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance<sup>1</sup>

**NOTES:** Children in a prekindergarten setting should be age-appropriately immunized. The number of doses depends on the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP).

For grades Pre-k through 7, intervals between doses of vaccine should be in accordance with the ACIP-recommended immunization schedule for persons 0 through 18 years of age. (Exception: intervals between doses of polio vaccine need to be reviewed only for grades kindergarten, 1, 6 and 7.) Doses received before the minimum age or intervals are not valid and do not count toward the number of doses listed below. Intervals between doses of vaccine DO NOT need to be reviewed for grades 8 through 12. See footnotes for specific information for **each** vaccine. Children who are enrolling in grade-less classes should meet the immunization requirements of the grades for which they are age equivalent.

**Dose requirements MUST be read with the footnotes of this schedule.**

| Vaccines  | Prekindergarten<br>(Day Care, Head Start,<br>Nursery or Pre-k) | Kindergarten<br>through Grade 1  | Grades<br>2 through 5 | Grades<br>6 through 7   | Grades<br>8 through 12 |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap)<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>4 doses</b>   | <b>5 doses or 4 doses</b> if the 4th dose was received at 4 years of age or older or<br><b>3 doses</b> if the series is started at 7 years of age or older                     |                       | <b>3 doses</b>  |                        |
| <b>Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine booster (Tdap)<sup>3</sup></b>  | Not applicable   |  |                       | <b>1 dose</b>   |                        |
| <b>Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV)<sup>4</sup></b>  | <b>3 doses</b>   | <b>4 doses or 3 doses</b> if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years of age or older  | <b>3 doses</b>        | <b>4 doses or 3 doses</b> if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years of age or older | <b>3 doses</b>         |
| <b>Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR)<sup>5</sup></b>   | <b>1 dose</b>  | <b>2 doses</b>   |                       |   |                        |
| <b>Hepatitis B vaccine<sup>6</sup></b>  | <b>3 doses</b>   | <b>3 doses or 2 doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax)</b> for children who received the doses at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 through 15 years of age |                       |   |                        |
| <b>Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine<sup>7</sup></b>   | <b>1 dose</b>  | <b>2 doses</b>   | <b>1 dose</b>         | <b>2 doses</b>  | <b>1 dose</b>          |
| <b>Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib)<sup>8</sup></b>                                  | <b>1 to 4 doses</b>  | Not applicable   |                       |   |                        |
| <b>Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV)<sup>9</sup></b>   | <b>1 to 4 doses</b>  | Not applicable   |                       |   |                        |

1. Demonstrated serologic evidence of measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella or polio (for all three serotypes) antibodies is acceptable proof of immunity to these diseases. Diagnosis by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner that a child has had varicella disease is acceptable proof of immunity to varicella.
2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a 5-dose series of DTaP vaccine at ages 2, 4, 6, 15 through 18 months, and 4 years of age or older. The fourth dose may be received as early as age 12 months, provided at least 6 months have elapsed since the third dose. However, the fourth dose of DTaP need not be repeated if it was administered at least 4 months after the third dose of DTaP. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
  - b. If the fourth dose of DTaP was administered at age 4 years or older, the fifth (booster) dose of DTaP vaccine is not necessary.
  - c. For children born prior to 1/1/2005, doses of DT and Td meet the immunization requirement for diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.
  - d. Children ages 7 through 10 years who are not fully immunized with the childhood DTaP vaccine series should receive Tdap vaccine as the first dose in the catch-up series; if additional doses are needed, use Td vaccine. A Tdap vaccine (or incorrectly administered DTaP vaccine) received at 7 years of age or older will meet the 6th grade Tdap requirement.
  - e. For previously unvaccinated children 7 years of age and older, the immunization requirement is 3 doses. Tdap should be given for the first dose, followed by two doses of Td in accordance with the ACIP recommended immunization schedule for persons 0-18 years of age: an initial Tdap followed 4 weeks later by a Td, and 6 months later by another Td.
3. Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. (Minimum age: 7 years)
  - a. Students 11 years of age or older entering grades 6 through 12 are required to have one dose of Tdap. A dose received at 7 years of age or older will meet this requirement.
  - b. Students who are 10 years old in grade 6 are in compliance until they turn 11 years of age.
4. Inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a series of IPV at ages 2, 4, 6 through 18 months, and 4 years of age or older. The final dose in the series should be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
  - b. For students who received their fourth dose before August 7, 2010, 4 doses separated by at least 4 weeks is sufficient.
  - c. If the third dose of polio vaccine was received at age 4 years or older, the fourth dose of polio vaccine is not necessary.
5. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
  - a. The first dose of MMR vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must have been received at least 28 days (4 weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
  - b. Students in grades kindergarten through 12 must have received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine, 2 doses of mumps-containing vaccine and at least 1 dose of rubella-containing vaccine.
  - c. One dose of MMR is required for prekindergarten.
6. Hepatitis B vaccine
  - a. Dose 1 may be given at birth or anytime thereafter. Dose 2 must be received at least 4 weeks (28 days) after dose 1. Dose 3 must be at least 8 weeks after dose 2 AND at least 16 weeks after dose 1 AND no earlier than 24 weeks of age.
  - b. Two doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) received at least 4 months apart at age 11 through 15 years will meet the requirement.
7. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
  - a. The first dose of varicella vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must have been received at least 28 days (4 weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
  - b. Two doses of varicella vaccine are required for students in grades kindergarten, 1, 6 and 7.
  - c. One dose of varicella vaccine is required for prekindergarten and grades 2 through 5 and 8 through 12.
8. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive Hib vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 12 through 59 months of age.
  - b. If 2 doses of vaccine were received before 12 months of age, only 3 doses are required with dose 3 at 12 through 15 months of age and at least 8 weeks after dose 2.
  - c. If dose 1 was received at ages 12 through 14 months of age, only 2 doses are required with dose 2 at least 8 weeks after dose 1.
  - d. If dose 1 was received at 15 months of age or older, only 1 dose is required.
  - e. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age or older.
9. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive PCV vaccine at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 12 through 59 months of age. The final dose must be received at 12 through 59 months of age.
  - b. Unvaccinated children 7 through 11 months of age are required to receive 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart, followed by a third dose at age 12 through 15 months.
  - c. Unvaccinated children 12 through 23 months of age are required to receive 2 doses of vaccine at least 8 weeks apart.
  - d. If one dose of vaccine was received at 24 months of age or older, no further doses are required.
  - e. For further information, refer to the PCV chart available in the School Survey Instruction Booklet at: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools)

For further information contact: New York State Department of Health  
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