

Students

SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES

The District will uphold and enforce the provisions of Public Health Law Section 2164 pertaining to immunization requirements for children.

1) Terms

- a. "School" means and includes any public, private or parochial child caring center, day nursery, day care agency, nursery school, kindergarten, elementary, intermediate, or secondary school.
 - b. "Child" means and includes any person between the ages of 2 months and 18 years.
 - c. "Person in parental relation to a child" means and includes his or her father or mother, by birth or adoption, his or her legally appointed guardian, or his or her custodian. A person will be regarded as the custodian of a child if he or she has assumed the charge and care of the child because the parents or legally appointed guardian: have died, are imprisoned, are mentally ill, or have been committed to an institution; have abandoned or deserted the child, are living outside the state, or their whereabouts are unknown; or have designated the person under General Obligations Law Title 15-A as a person in parental relation to the child.
- 2) Every person in parental relation to a child will have administered to their child an adequate dose, doses, or boosters of an immunizing agent against: measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), hepatitis B, varicella, pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal disease, poliomyelitis, and meningococcal disease in accordance with Public Health Law Section 2164. The person in parental relation will provide proof of these immunizations through a certificate from a health practitioner, the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), or the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). School health office personnel will review the child's immunization records and work with the principal in enforcing the immunization requirements in Public Health Law Section 2164 and its implementing regulations.
 - 3) If a child has not previously received his or her required immunizations, the person in parental relation will present the child to a health practitioner to request the necessary immunizations.
 - 4) The person in parental relation to a child may present proof of immunity by serology (blood test) to the following immunizations: measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, and varicella-
 - 5) Absent a valid immunization record, diagnosis of disease, serologic evidence of immunity, a valid medical exemption, or being in process of receiving required immunizations, children will be excluded from school for noncompliance with Public Health Law Section 2164.

If a child is in process of receiving immunizations, the District will follow-up with the person in parental relation to the child to confirm that the child remains in process of receiving immunizations, as necessary.

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Students

SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES (Cont'd.)

- 6) If any person in parental relation is unable to pay for private health practitioner services, he or she will present the child to the county health officer of the county in which the child resides who will then administer the immunizing agent without charge.
- 7) If a person in parental relation applies for a child's admission or has a child attending a District school without a certificate or other acceptable evidence of the child's required immunizations, the principal will inform him or her of the immunization requirements and that the immunization may be administered by any health practitioner or the county health officer, without charge.
- 8) If the person in parental relation does not comply with the immunization requirements, the District will provide him or her with a form that:
 - a. Notifies him or her that, as a prerequisite for admission to or continued attendance at a District school, a valid reason must exist to withhold immunization consent;
 - b. Requests consent;
 - c. States that absent a valid reason, consent will be granted for the child to be immunized by a public health officer, the school physician, or the school's registered professional nurse; and
 - d. States that he or she need not execute the form if the child has a valid medical exemption.
- 9) No principal will permit any child to be admitted or to attend school in excess of 14 days without the immunization certificate or some other acceptable evidence of the required immunizations. This period may be extended, however, to not more than 30 days for a child transferring from out-of-state or from another country who can show a good-faith effort to get the necessary certification or other evidence of immunization.

For homeless children, the enrolling school must immediately refer the person in parental relation to the District's homeless liaison, who must assist them in obtaining the necessary immunizations or medical records.

- 10) Whenever a child has been refused admission to or continued attendance at a District school for lack of acceptable evidence of immunization, immunity, or exemption, the principal of the school will:
 - a. Notify the person in parental relation to the child of his or her responsibility to have the child immunized and of the public resources available for doing so;
 - b. Notify the local health authority of the name and address of the excluded child and of the immunization or immunizations which the child lacks; and

(Continued)

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SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES (Cont'd.)

- c. Provide, with the cooperation of the local health authority, for a time and place at which the required immunization or immunizations may be administered.
- 11) If a New York licensed physician certifies that an immunization may be detrimental to a child's health, the immunization will not be required. The certification must identify the immunization exempted, its medical contraindication, and the length of time the immunization is expected to be contraindicated. Once not contraindicated, the immunization will be required. Medical exemptions must be reissued annually. The District has the right and responsibility to accept or reject a medical exemption.

Records and Other Requirements

The District will:

- 1) Retain the original copy of all immunization records and evidence of medical and religious exemptions for 6 years, or 3 years after the individual attains the age of 18, whichever is longer, even if an electronic copy has been made.
- 2) Maintain a complete list of students who are susceptible to vaccine-preventable disease(s) so that they may be readily identified in the event of an outbreak including students who:
 - a. Have not yet completed the required immunizations for entry-/attendance (are in process) or are awaiting the results of serologic testing.
 - b. Have a medical exemption.
 - c. Are over the age of 18 who have not been immunized and are still attending school.
- 3) Make these records available to the New York State Department of Health for purposes allowed under Public Health Law, including audits.
- 4) Provide the Health Commissioner a summary regarding its compliance with the immunization requirements each year.

Education Law § 914
Public Health Law §§ 613 and 2164
8 NYCRR §§ 100.2 and 136.3
10 NYCRR Subpart 66-1

6/15/2020