

Students

MOUNT PLEASANT COTTAGE SCHOOL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES**

- 1) As used in this regulation, unless the context requires otherwise:
 - a. The term "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. The term "child" shall mean and include any child between the ages of two (2) months and eighteen (18) years and every child entering school.
 - c. The term "person in parental relation to a child" shall mean and include his/her father or mother, by birth or adoption, his/her legally appointed guardian or his/her custodian. A person shall be regarded as the custodian of a child if he/she has assumed the charge and care of the child because the parents or legally appointed guardian of the minor have died, are imprisoned, are mentally ill, or have been committed to an institution, or because they have abandoned or deserted such child, are living outside the state or their whereabouts are unknown, or have designated the person pursuant to General Obligations Law Title 15-A.
- 2) Every person in parental relation to a child in this state shall have administered to such child an adequate dose or doses of an immunizing agent as prescribed by Public Health Law Section 2164.
- 3) The person in parental relation to any such child who has not previously received such immunization shall present the child to a health practitioner and request him/her to administer the necessary immunization.
- 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, varicella, and poliomyelitis.
- 5) If any person in parental relation to such child is unable to pay for the services of a private health practitioner, such person shall present such child to the Health Officer of the county in which the child resides who shall then administer the immunizing agent without charge.
- 6) The health practitioner who administers such immunizing agent to any such child shall give a certificate of such immunization to the person in parental relation to such child.
- 7) In the event that a person in parental relation to a child makes application for admission of such child to a school and there exists no certificate or other acceptable evidence of the child's required immunizations, the Principal of the school shall inform such person of the necessity to have the child immunized, that such immunization may be administered by any health

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practitioner, or that the child may be immunized without charge by the Health Officer in the county where the child resides. If such person does not wish to select a health practitioner to administer the immunization, he/she shall be provided with a form which shall give notice that as a prerequisite to processing the application for admission to the school, such person shall state a valid reason for withholding consent or consent shall be given for immunization to be administered by a Health Officer in the public employ, or by a school physician or school's registered professional nurse. The form shall provide for the execution of a consent by such person, and it shall also state that such person need not execute such consent if paragraphs 8) or 9) of this regulation apply to such child.

- 8) No Principal of a school shall permit any child to be admitted to such school or to attend such school in excess of fourteen (14) days without the certificate provided for in paragraph 5) of this regulation or some other acceptable evidence of the required immunization. However, this period may be extended to not more than thirty (30) days for a student transferring from out-of-state or from another country and 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 parent or guardian of the student to the District's homeless liaison, who must assist them in obtaining the necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records.

- 9) If any physician licensed to practice medicine in this state certifies that immunization may be detrimental to a child's health, the requirements of these regulations shall be inapplicable until such immunization is found no longer to be detrimental to the child's health. The written medical exemption must identify the immunization exempted, the medical contraindication for the exemption, and the length of time immunization is contraindicated. Medical exemptions must be reissued annually. A sample medical exemption form is available at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/>
- 10) These regulations shall not apply to children whose parent, parents, or guardian hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practices herein required, and no certificate shall be required as a prerequisite to such children being admitted or received into school or attending school. The Building Principal is charged with the responsibility of determining, on a case-by-case basis, whether a parent/guardian is entitled to invoke the religious exemption from required immunizations.

A form for parents/guardians to utilize to request a religious exemption to immunizations may be found at website:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/modelreligiousexemptionformmarch10.pdf>

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SUBJECT: IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES (Cont'd.)**Requirements for Retention of Student Immunization Records**

In accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 2164, the District shall:

- 1) Retain the original copy of all immunizations records, and evidence of medical and religious exemptions, for six (6) years, or three (3) years after the individual attains the age of eighteen (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); and
 - b. Have a medical or religious exemption.
- 3) Make such records available to the New York State Department of Health for those purposes described by Public Health Law, including the auditing of student immunization records.

Current information regarding immunization requirements may be found at websites:

<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/> and

http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization/childhood_and_adolescent.htm

NOTE: Refer to Procedure #7511P -- School District Procedure for Implementing Requests for Religious Exemption to Immunization