School Immunization Requirements
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Bureau of Immunization
Save this!

- Office of School Health

- Chancellors Regulations

- ATS Helpdesk (718)935-5100

- 311 for list of immunization clinics (no cost to families)
Presentation Goals:

1. To give participants a basic understanding of required immunizations for school attendance.

2. Answer any questions regarding immunization requirements for school attendance.
Public Health Law Section 2164 (PHL §2164)

No principal, teacher, owner or person in charge of a school shall permit any child to be admitted to or attend such school, in excess of fourteen days, without acceptable evidence of the child's immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, pertussis, tetanus, and, where applicable, Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), and pneumococcal disease. This fourteen day period may be extended to not more than thirty days where such student is 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.

Note: A school may require students to be immunized before being admitted to school.
Certificate of Immunization

- An official immunization record or card signed or stamped by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner;
- CH205 form completed by a NYS licensed physician
- A Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) record
- A military dependent’s shot record
- The immunization portion of a passport or immigration form
Other Proofs of Immunization

Serological Evidence of Immunity (titer)
- A copy of the original laboratory results with the student's name and date.
- Valid only for MMR, Varicella, and Hepatitis B only
- A positive titer result remains acceptable proof of immunity for the entire time the student is attending school.
- Equivocal and negative titers are not considered proof of immunity.

History of Disease
- A statement by physician licensed to practice in New York State, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner indicating a history of disease.
In Process (Provisional)

• New Students may enter school with documentation of at least the initial series of immunization within the previous 2 months.

• Once admitted, completion must be as follows:

1) The provisional period between the first and second dose for diphtheria-containing vaccine, polio, hepatitis B, and measles-containing vaccine is 8 weeks.

2) The provisional period for diphtheria-containing vaccine, polio, and hepatitis B between the second and third dose is 6 months.
Outbreaks still occur

- 2009 Mumps outbreak in NYC, NJ
  - More than 3,000 cases reported in NYC
- 2008 Measles outbreak in NYC, NJ
- 2006 Mumps Outbreak in Midwest
  - More than 6,333 mumps cases reported nationwide
  - 53 cases reported in NY State
- 2005 Mumps Summer Camp Outbreak
  - More than 30 children and staff diagnosed.
Chickenpox can be dangerous and even deadly

- Prior to vaccine introduction in 1995:
  - Approximately 4 million cases of vaccine preventable disease were reported annually in the US including:
    - 4,000 – 9,000 hospitalizations/year
    - 100 deaths/year
  - The greatest vaccine-preventable killer of children in the United States

Source: CDC
Risks of Not Vaccinating

Vaccination Works!

Measles

Let's look at the history of measles:

1958-1962: Over a half a million cases of measles are reported each year. 432 measles-related deaths occur on average each year.

Measles vaccine is licensed.

By 2000, only 81 cases are reported in all of the U.S.!

Source: CDC
Cost of being sick

- Sick children miss educational time
- A child experiences physical pain, discomfort, trauma, **long-term disabilities**, or even death from an illness that could have been prevented with a vaccine.
- A sick child can also infect parents, sisters, brothers, other family members, friends, and classmates too!
- $ cost to parents for taking time off work
- $ administrative cost to schools

Source: CDC
Requirements for Pre-Kindergarten

- 4 doses of **Diphtheria**- containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT)
- 3 doses of **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis**- containing vaccine for children born on or after 1/1/05 (DTaP, DTP)
- 3 doses of **Polio** vaccine (OPV or IPV)
- 1 dose of **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** vaccines administered on or after the first birthday*
- **Hib** (*Haemophilus Influenzae* Type b) vaccine
  - 3 doses before 15 months of age *or*
  - 1 dose on or after 15 months of age
- 3 doses of **Hepatitis B** Vaccine (HBV)
- 1 dose of **Varicella** vaccine
  - Administered on or after the first birthday.
- 1,2,3 doses of **Pneumococcal conjugate** (PCV)
  - For all children born on or after January 1, 2008

*Note: New York state allows a 4 day grace period between intervals*
Notes for Live Virus Vaccines

• Live virus vaccines must be given on the same date or be separated by the minimum interval of 28 days.

• 4 day grace period does not apply
Requirements for Kindergarten–12th Grade

- 3 doses of **Diphtheria** containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, Td, Tdap) - New York City requires 4 doses for Kindergarten
- 3 doses of **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis**-containing vaccine for children born on or after 1/1/05 (DTaP, DTP)
- 3 doses of **Polio** vaccine (OPV and/or IPV)
- 2 doses of **Measles** vaccine and one dose each of **Mumps** and **Rubella** vaccines
  - The first dose of **Measles, Mumps** and **Rubella (MMR)** vaccine must be administered on or after the first birthday*
3 doses of Hepatitis B Vaccine (HBV)
  - The 2 dose adult Recombivax Hepatitis B series for students 11-15 years of age only meets the requirements for Hepatitis B. Documentation must specify vaccine type.

1 dose of Varicella vaccine
  - for all children through and including the 11th grade, born on or after January 1, 1994, one dose on or after birthday.
Tdap

- A vaccine containing tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) is now required of all students entering 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grade or a comparable level special education program who are born on or after 1/1/94.

- Tdap Vaccines:
  - Boostrix (GSK) – licensed for ages 10-18
  - Adacel (sanofi pasteur)– licensed for ages 11-64

- If a student has received a Td vaccination within the last 2 years, the student’s Tdap vaccination may be deferred for a period of 2 years.

- 10 year-old students who are entering 6th grade are not required to receive a Tdap vaccine and will not be excluded from school, but must be tracked and immunized when they turn 11.

- At 11 years old, if a student does not have Tdap vaccines they are excludable!
Tdap (cont’d)

- If a student has received a DTaP vaccination in error within the last 2 years, that will be considered acceptable proof of immunization to meet the Tdap booster requirement for entering the 6th grade.
Immunization Exemptions

Medical Exemption

• A statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York, indicating a valid contraindication for one or more of the required immunizations.
  
  – Go here to verify if physicians licensed to practice in NYS: http://www.nydoctorprofile.com/welcome.jsp

• This certificate should specify:
  
  1) which vaccine(s) is contraindicated,
  2) why (surgery, cancer treatment, etc),
  3) the duration of the exemption.

• Medical certificate is confidential and should be kept in students school medical file.
Immunization Exemptions

Medical Exemptions (cont’d)

• If an exemption was written by a physician from another state who is not licensed to practice in New York State, the exemption is not valid.

• Medical exemptions should be a valid contraindication to vaccine. To verify the validity of medical exemption;
  1) Go here [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm) OR
  2) Physician can call us at (212) 676 - 2259

• Chiropractors are not physicians.
• Exemptions written by physicians for their own children are acceptable, but not encouraged.
Immunization Exemptions

Religious Exemption

Public Health Law Section 2164 defines a religious exemption as a written and signed statement from the parent(s) or guardian of the child stating that they hold sincere and genuine religious beliefs which are contrary to the practices of immunization. The principal or person in charge may require supporting documentation.
Immunization Exemptions

Religious Exemption (Cont’d)

• A religious exemption must be a written letter from the parent/guardian to the principal. No exceptions.

• There must be one letter for EACH child requesting exempt from immunizations.

• If the child has had previous vaccinations, the parent must articulate why a child is now exempt.

• An approved hard copy of the religious exemption must remain on file in the students cumulative record, as well as in the student health record.

• In accordance with a Supreme Court ruling, a school must grant an individual the right to apply for a religious exemption, but the school does not have to accept it.

NYS does not allow for philosophical exemptions.
Immunization Exemptions

Religious Exemption (cont’d)
It is recommended that charter schools use the guidelines provided by the New York City Department of Education Chancellors Regulation

- Charter school principals who grant religious exemptions should send copied of the letters to the Department Education [Julia Sykes (212) 374 – 2144] for review.
Record Keeping

- Maintain a list of all children/students without proof of immunization
  - Those without an immunization record on file
  - Those with a religious or medical exemption
  - Those who are in the process of receiving the required immunizations
Exclusion Requirements

The principal or person in charge is required to exclude (not permit the child/student to attend school until the child/student receives the required vaccinations) any child/student who:

- Lacks an immunization record unless he/she has a medical or religious exemption.
- Fails to provide the school with proof of immunity within 14 days of school entry. A student transferring from out-of-state or from another country have up to 30 days.
- Any child/student who has exceeded the 14 or 30 day period and who is not in process of completing immunizations
- Must notify the local public health officer of the exclusion and give child’s name and address.
  - It is generally assumed that the 14 and 30 days are calendar days.
Exclusion Requirements (con’t)

• Schools should notify parents of required immunizations at the beginning of each school year.
• Schools must send out warning notices to parents with students in the excludable status.
• Schools must send out Exclusion letters to parents failing to immunize children.
• Remember, principals CAN and SHOULD exclude any child that is not properly vaccinated. It's the LAW.
Violation of the Public Health Law may result in the imposition of a civil penalty of up to $2,000 per violation.
Contact Information

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QUESTIONS ?