



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**  
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

**Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street, CN21  
Queens, NY 11101-4132

October 25, 2016

Dear Colleague:

We are sending out this communication in response to numerous questions we have received about poliovirus serology and the polio vaccine school immunization requirements.

New York State Public Health Law§2164 allows for poliovirus serology to satisfy the school polio immunization requirements if immunity to all 3 poliovirus types is demonstrated. However, as part of the global polio eradication program, live polioviruses are being removed from all laboratories worldwide, including the United States. Poliovirus type 2 has been removed first and, therefore, commercial testing for this type is no longer available.

As a consequence, there is no longer a way for a student to meet the requirements for polio vaccination via serologic evidence unless serology was previously obtained and positive for all 3 poliovirus serotypes (polio 1, polio 2 and polio 3). In the absence of acceptable documentation of serologic evidence of polio immunity, a student must provide proof of the required number of doses of polio vaccine for his or her age or they will not be able to attend school, as specified by New York State Public Health Law§2164.

As a reminder, students entering grades K, 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 are required to have had 4 doses of polio vaccine, unless the third dose was received at 4 years of age or older, in which case only 3 doses are required. Three doses of polio vaccine are required for all other grades. The final dose in the series must have been received on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose. For students who received their fourth dose before August 7, 2010, 4 doses separated by at least 4 weeks is sufficient.

For questions on the polio vaccine requirement or any other vaccine-related issue, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). Thank you for keeping NYC children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc