



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Bureau of Immunization
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Immunization Compliance Update

October 24, 2011

Dear Principal:

We are now in the second month of the 2011-2012 school year and I want to provide you with an update on our progress towards achieving this year's goal of assuring that at least 98.8% of New York City's school age children are appropriately immunized. New York State Public Health Law (PHL) §2164 mandates that all children, with the exception of those with a valid medical or religious exemption, meet the immunization requirements in order to attend school. School principals are accountable for their school's compliance with PHL §2164. As of October 14, 2011 92.5% of New York City public school children are completely immunized based on the current requirements.

For those schools that have not yet come into compliance with PHL §2164, this letter will serve as a "First Warning Letter". School immunization data will be reviewed again on November 18, 2011. At that time principals of those schools failing to demonstrate significant progress toward the 98.8% goal will receive a "Second Warning Letter", an indication that they are in violation of New York State Law.

Please use the receipt of this letter as an opportunity to review your school's progress towards achieving the goal of 98.8% of students being complete. You can review your school's status via the Automate the Schools (ATS) data system. If you or your staff are having difficulty obtaining students immunization records, they should make use of the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). The CIR is a useful tool that can assist your staff in quickly determining a student's immunization status. Questions on using the CIR can be direct to (347) 396-2400.

Under PHL §2164 it is the responsibility of the principal to exclude students who are not in compliance and to inform the parents/guardians of these children that they can not return to school unless vaccinated; a template exclusion letter is available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/26D35D93-81EC-4175-ACAC-A06B13120F48/104894/NoticeofExclusion.pdf>. Parents of students who are without a medical provider can call 311 for a referral to a clinic that provides immunization.

Our office is ready to provide you with technical support and advice to help you come into compliance. If you have any questions, please call our Program Support Unit at (347) 396-2433. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Dr. Roger Platt, Assistant Commissioner, School Health, NYCDOHMH
Despina Zaharakis, Executive Director of School Support, DOE
Julia Sykes, Health Liaison District Coordinator, CFN Health Liaisons, DOE