



**Department
of Health**

Public Health Law § 2164

Overview of School Immunization Requirements

March 17, 2017

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and Pneumococcal (PCV) Vaccines Interval Requirements for Pre-kindergarten

- Hib and PCV only required for pre-kindergarten
- The intervals between the required doses of vaccine must be in accordance with the ACIP catch-up schedule

DTaP, Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine Interval Requirements for Grades Pre-kindergarten Through 9

- The intervals between the required doses of vaccine must be in accordance with the ACIP catch-up schedule

Polio and Varicella Immunization Requirements for 2017-18 School Year

- Requirements for kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9
 - 4 doses of polio vaccine, unless 3rd dose received at 4 years of age or older
 - 2 doses of varicella vaccine
- Intervals between doses of vaccine must be in accordance with ACIP catch-up schedule

Polio and Varicella Immunization Requirements for 2017-18 School Year (cont.)

- Requirements for grades 4 through 5 and 10 through 12
 - 3 doses of polio vaccine
 - Intervals between the doses of polio vaccine not required to be reviewed for accordance with ACIP catch-up schedule
 - 1 dose of varicella vaccine

Tdap Booster Requirement

- 1 dose of Tdap vaccine for students in grades 6 through 12
 - Tdap is not required until the student turns 11 years of age
 - A dose of Tdap received at 7 years of age or older will meet this requirement
 - A dose of DTaP incorrectly administered instead of Tdap will meet this requirement

Meningococcal Meningitis Immunization Requirements for the 2017-18 School Year

- 1 dose vaccine against meningococcal type A, C, W and Y (MenACWY) required for grades 7 and 8
 - Vaccine brand names: Menactra and Menveo
 - Minimum age for 1st dose is 6 weeks
- 2 doses MenACWY required for grade 12

Meningococcal Meningitis Immunization Requirements for the 2017-18 School Year (cont.)

- If 1st dose received at 16 years of age or older, only 1 dose required
- Minimum interval between doses is 8 weeks
- Minimum age for 2nd dose is 16 years of age
- 4 day grace period applies to minimum age or interval

Meningococcal Meningitis Immunization Requirements for the 2017-18 School Year (cont.)

- If 1st dose MenACWY received before 16 years of age, a 2nd dose is required for grade 12
- If 2nd dose received before 16 years of age, a 3rd dose on or after 16 years of age is required
- 4 day grace period applies to minimum age or interval

Meningococcal Meningitis Immunization Requirements for the 2017-18 School Year (cont.)

- Students with rare medical conditions may have received several doses of MenACWY vaccine before 16 years of age
 - Contact NYSDOH for guidance regarding students entering grade 12 who received multiple doses of MenACWY vaccines before 16 years of age

Vaccine Dose Requirements for Grades 10 through 12 in the 2017-18 School Year

- 3 doses of diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine
 - (DTaP, DTP, DT, Tdap, Td)
- 3 doses of polio vaccine
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adult Recombivax for students who receive the doses between 11 and 15 years of age
- 2 doses of measles vaccine and 1 dose of mumps and rubella vaccines (MMR)
 - Minimum interval between the doses of measles vaccine is 28 days

Vaccine Dose Requirements for Grades 10 through 12 in the 2017-18 School Year (cont.)

- 1 dose of varicella vaccine
- Tdap booster dose
- 2 doses MenACWY for grade 12 only
 - 1 dose MenACWY if 1st dose received at 16 years of age or older

Interval Requirements for Grades 10 through 12 in the 2017-18 School Year

- Students enrolling in grades 10 through 12 will be exempted from interval requirements if they have the appropriate number of vaccine doses in accordance with the requirements that were in effect in the 2013-14 school year
 - Exception: must have 28 days between doses 1 and 2 of measles vaccine
 - Students enrolling in grade 12 must still comply with the meningococcal meningitis vaccine requirement



4 Day Grace Period

- May be applied to the minimum age or interval between vaccine doses in a vaccine series for all required vaccines for school entrance/attendance
 - Exception: 2 different live virus vaccines
 - Must be at least 28 days between doses

Certificate of Immunization

- Health care practitioner record
 - Signed by practitioner licensed in New York State
- Records acceptable without a signature
 - NYSIIS or CIR record
 - Official registry record from another state
 - Electronic health record
 - Official record from a foreign nation

Certificate of Immunization (cont.)

- School health record
 - Still acceptable without signature
 - Must be transferred directly from one school to another

Definition of Health Care Practitioner

- Any person authorized by law to administer immunizations which includes:
 - Physician
 - Nurse practitioner
 - Nurse-midwife caring for pregnant student
 - Registered nurse (RN)
 - Licensed practical nurse under direction of RN
 - Physician's Assistant



Diagnosis of Disease as Evidence of Immunity

- Only allowed for varicella
 - Not allowed for measles or mumps
 - Must be diagnosed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant

Serological Evidence of Immunity

- Allowed for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B and polio (if all 3 serotypes are positive)
 - Equivocal results not acceptable proof of immunity

In Process

- **Definition:** received at least first dose of each immunization series and has age appropriate appointments to complete the immunization series
- ACIP catch-up schedule used to determine appropriate spacing of appointments
 - Alternative vaccine schedules not acceptable

In Process (cont.)

- 30 days allowed for results of serologic testing
 - If results negative or equivocal, appointment dates must be provided within 30 days from the notification of negative or equivocal serology results
- School may not refuse admission to a child who meets the definition of “in process” to complete the required immunizations

Medical Exemptions

- Must be reissued annually
- Must be completed and signed by physician licensed to practice in NYS
- Must contain sufficient information to identify medical contraindication to specific immunization
- Must specify length of time immunization contraindicated
- Medical exemption form available at:
www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools

Religious Exemptions

- Sample form titled: Request for Religious Exemption created by the New York State Education Department (SED)
 - Religious exemption form available at:
www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools
- Written and signed statement from parent or guardian
- Philosophical exemptions not allowed

Exclusion

- Principal or person in charge of school shall not permit students to attend for more than 14 days without being in compliance with PHL
 - 14 days may be extended to 30 days for students from out of state or country if a good faith effort shown to comply

Exclusion: School Responsibility

- Notify parent or guardian of responsibility to have student immunized and of public resources for immunization
- Notify local health authority of name and address of student and immunizations student needs
- In cooperation with local health authority provide for a time and place where immunizations may be administered

Exclusion:Local Health Authority Responsibility

- Cooperate with school authorities to provide a time and place where immunizations may be administered within 2 weeks of exclusion

Exclusion in the Event of a Disease Outbreak

- Children “in process,” or with medical or religious exemptions, may be excluded in the event of a disease outbreak
- Schools required to maintain a current list of susceptible children at all times

New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR)

- Provide immunization records that clearly show vaccinations and dates of administration
- Recommend schools use NYSIIS or CIR to determine validity of spacing between doses of vaccine
 - Reports whether doses of vaccine are age appropriate
 - Reports whether intervals between doses are correct

NYSIIS

- Schools must have a Health Commerce System (HCS) account to access NYSIIS
- To request an HCS account, send an email to osas@health.ny.gov
- For more information on NYSIIS
 - Call (518) 473-2839
 - Email nysiis@health.ny.gov

CIR

- For information about accessing CIR, and to set up an online account, call New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: (347) 396-2400

Educational Materials

- Revised NYS Immunization Requirements for School Entrance and Attendance (#2370)
- Questions and Answers (regarding school immunization requirements)
- Pneumococcal Vaccine Schedule
- Polio and Varicella Vaccine Requirements for the 2017-18 School Year
 - Updated materials to be posted at NYSDOH Child Care Programs, Schools and Post-secondary Institutions web page at: www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools and on the School Survey Instruction Booklet web page at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/school_survey/

Educational Materials (cont.)

- Information regarding the meningococcal meningitis requirement and the school flyer posted at:
www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/meningococcal

Contact Information

- NYSDOH, Bureau of Immunization, School Assessment and Compliance Unit (518) 474-1944 or osas@health.ny.gov
- Schools in New York City (347) 396-2433

Contact Information

- Capital District area: 518-473-4437
- Central NY Regional Office: 315-477-8164
- Western Regional Office: 716-847-4501
- Rochester Field Office: 585-423-8097
- New Rochelle Field Office: 914-654-7149
- Monticello Field Office: 845-794-2045
- Central Islip Office: 631-851-3096