



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 24, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about amendments to regulations at 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-1, addressing school immunization requirements, which are expected to be adopted and take effect on September 1, 2016. It is important that health care providers understand the expected changes to the immunization requirements because schools will be required under Public Health Law § 2164 to exclude students from school who have not met the immunization requirements for school entrance and attendance. Parents look to their health care providers for information regarding immunizations, so it is important for providers to know the school immunization requirements.

Students entering grade 7 will be required to receive one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY; sometimes abbreviated as MCV4; brand names Menactra or Menveo). The only exceptions to this requirement will be for students who have documented medical or religious exemptions to MenACWY vaccine.

In addition, students entering grade 12 will be required to receive two doses of MenACWY vaccine, with the second dose received on or after the student's 16th birthday. However, if the first dose was received at age 16 years or older, then only one dose will be required, in accordance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. Students entering grade 12 this fall who have not received a dose of MenACWY vaccine on or after their 16th birthday will be required to receive an additional dose of MenACWY vaccine, unless they have a medical or religious exemption to MenACWY vaccine or have a medical condition that puts them at high risk of meningococcal disease which necessitates use of the high risk meningococcal vaccine schedule. Doses of vaccine against meningococcal serogroup B (MenB vaccine; brand names Bexsero or Trumenba) will not satisfy the grade 12 requirement.

Please ensure that all patients who will be entering grades 7 and 12 in the fall receive the required doses of MenACWY vaccine prior to the start of school so that they will not be kept out of school due to lack of compliance with this regulation.

A chart describing the vaccines to be required for each grade is attached. *Please note* that children who received doses of vaccine before the minimum age or intervals specified by the ACIP schedule will be required to repeat the invalid dose or show other evidence of immunity in order to continue to attend school.

Finally, all schools in New York State have access to either the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and/or the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). It is important for health care providers to keep patient immunization records up to date in NYSIIS and the CIR as schools will be using NYSIIS and the CIR to determine whether the vaccine doses required for school entrance and attendance were received at the appropriate ages and intervals. If information is not found in NYSIIS or the CIR, then your office will need to provide signed paper vaccine records or the patient's immunization record from your electronic health record.

If you have any questions regarding these upcoming changes to the regulations, please contact the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization at one of the following telephone numbers:

Central Office - Albany	(518) 474 – 1944
Capital District	(518) 473 – 4437
Western Regional Office	(716) 847 – 4501
Rochester Field Office	(585) 423 – 8097
Syracuse Regional Office	(315) 477 – 8164
New Rochelle Field Office	(914) 654 – 7149
Central Islip Office	(631) 851 – 3096
Monticello District Office	(845) 794 – 5627

In New York City, please contact the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Bureau of Immunization at (347) 396 – 2433.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that all children in New York State are appropriately immunized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Rausch-Phung", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Rausch-Phung, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Bureau of Immunization