



Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools



Van T. Mitchell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Superintendents and Local Health Officers

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools
 Van T. Mitchell, Secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

DATE: April 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Important Updates and Reminders Related to School Immunizations

This memorandum will provide several important updates and reminders related to school immunization requirements for the 2015-16 school year. Please review it carefully. The updates and reminders are related to:

- 1) Implementation of the 2013 COMAR immunization requirements for the 2015-2016 school year; and
- 2) Clarification of the COMAR requirements related to temporary admission to school and exclusion for non-compliance with immunization requirements.

1. School Immunization Requirements for the 2015-2016 School Year:

The changes made to COMAR 10.06.04.03 in 2013 have resulted in the following vaccination requirements for the start of the 2015-2016 School Year:

Grade Level	Immunization Requirement
Kindergarten & 1st Grade Students	<u>Varicella</u> Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine are required for Kindergarten & 1st Grade Students
7th & 8th Grade Students	<u>Tdap</u> A single dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all students entering 7th & 8th grade
	<u>Meningococcal</u> A single dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine is required for all students entering 7th & 8th grade

DHMH is collaborating with the Maryland State Department of Education and immunization providers, including local health departments to increase awareness of and ensure compliance with the 2015-2016 school requirements the 2015-16 school requirements. We request your assistance in implementing activities to ensure students in your jurisdiction are in compliance with the school requirements. Suggested activities include:

- Informing parents of the requirements through a variety of mechanisms;
- Partnering with the local health department to conduct adolescent-only vaccination clinics;
- Partnering with the local health department to conduct school-located vaccination clinics;
- Partnering with school based health centers to provide needed vaccinations to enrollees;
- **Implementing local media campaigns highlighting the school requirements; and**
- Partnering with local organizations to promote school immunization requirements.

2. Temporary Admission to School and School Exclusion for Immunization **Non-Compliance:**

COMAR 10.06.04.06 provides the conditions under which a school may temporarily admit or retain a student as it relates to their compliance with required immunizations for school.

According to COMAR, in order to admit or retain a student temporarily, the student's parent or guardian shall present evidence of the student's appointment with a health care provider or local health department to receive a required immunization; reconstruct a lost record; or acquire evidence of age-appropriate immunity. It further requires that the date of the appointment may not be later than 20 calendar days following the date the student was temporarily admitted or retained.

Thus, students out of compliance with the immunization requirements may not be admitted to or retained in school without the evidence of an appointment. The parent must present evidence of an appointment on DAY ONE of admittance/retention.

Evidence of an appointment may include the following:

- 1) An appointment slip or note from the health care provider's office of an appointment no later than 20 calendar days from the date the student is temporarily admitted or retained;
- 2) A verbal or written statement signed by the parent/guardian that contains the appointment date, no later than 20 calendar days from the date the student is temporarily admitted or retained, with a health care provider, or

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- 3) A verbal or written statement by the parent/guardian indicating the parent/guardian's intent to attend a local health department immunization clinic within the next 20 calendar days.

Once students are admitted or retained, they must keep the appointment and obtain the required documentation of immunization compliance or be excluded the day after the appointment.

For more information and resources for the new school vaccination requirements, visit the Center for Immunization Back-to-School webpage. Contact Greg Reed at 410-767-6679 or greg.reed@maryland.gov, or Cheryl De Pinto at 410-767-5595 or cheryl.depinto@maryland.gov if you have any questions or need assistance.

LML:VTM:AM:CD

cc: School Health Services Coordinators
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