



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc  
*Commissioner*

August 27, 2020

Dear Colleague,

We would like to inform you of changes to the school immunization requirements for the upcoming school year and to emphasize that now is the time to catch children up on immunizations they may have missed—whether school-required or not—because of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued interim guidance on how to safely provide immunization services during the pandemic; see [Vaccination Guidance During a Pandemic](#). Also see CDC's [Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations](#) for further help bringing your patients up-to-date.

The 2020-21 school year medical and immunization requirements have been posted [here](#). Click on #5 at the top of the page and you will be taken to Information for Providers; the SH65 Medical Immunization Requirements for School Year 2020-2021 is under this heading.

We would like to inform you of the following changes for the upcoming year: students entering grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will need to have had one dose of meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine (MenACWY), while students entering grade 12 will continue to need two doses, unless their first dose was at 16 years of age or older. The final dose of MenACWY must have been given at 16 years of age or older. If two doses of MenACWY were given prior to age 16, a third dose is required. For grade 7 only, the first dose of MenACWY must be at 10 years of age or older. Students entering grades K-12 will be required to have had two doses of varicella vaccine and four doses of polio vaccine, unless the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of polio vaccine was received at 4 years of age or older, in which case only three doses are required. Finally, for grade 6, only doses of Tdap given at 10 years of age or older will satisfy the vaccination requirement. For grades 7 through 12, Tdap doses given at age 7 years or older will continue to satisfy the vaccination requirement.

As in the past few years, all children 6 months through 59 months of age enrolled in New York City-regulated childcare programs, including Head Start, nursery, and public or non-public pre-K and 3-K, must receive at least one dose of flu vaccine between July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Although some children may need a second flu vaccine dose in accordance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, the second dose is not required for childcare or pre-school attendance. Additionally, as has been the case since June 2019, the only allowable exemption from immunization requirements for child care or school is a valid medical contraindication to one or more vaccines. As a reminder, mild illness is not a contraindication to any vaccine. All medical exemption requests will be reviewed by Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) physicians.

For questions on any immunization issue, including ordering Vaccine for Children (VFC) vaccine, please call (347) 396-2400 or email [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). We thank you for your continuing efforts at protecting NYC residents from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

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

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