



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, MPH
Commissioner

February 28, 2024

Dear Colleague,

Routine pediatric immunization rates in New York City (NYC) have not returned to pre-pandemic levels and are continuing to decline. As of December 2023, the percentage of children ages 4 to 6 years who received two doses of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine was 14 percentage points lower than in December 2019. Coverage for other vaccine series have similar trends. **Children and communities are at risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.**

All children attending daycare and grades K through 12 must be in compliance with school immunization requirements. **Immunization requirements for the 2023-2024 school year are available [here](#).**

We urge you to use the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) to identify and contact your patients who are behind on their immunizations and bring them into your office to be vaccinated. Instructions for how to do so are available [here](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a [catch-up immunization schedule](#) for children whose vaccinations have been delayed.

The only allowable exemption from immunization requirements for daycare or school is a valid medical contraindication. All medical exemption requests must be written by a New York State-licensed physician and will be reviewed by physicians from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to determine their validity.

If your patients have historical vaccine records, including records from other states and countries, enter the historical doses into the CIR. A chart of vaccine-preventable disease terms in multiple languages is available [here](#). History of varicella disease and results of serology testing for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and varicella should also be entered into the CIR and can be used to meet school immunization requirements.

Call 347-396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov with questions about bringing your patients up-to-date or on any other immunization or CIR-related issue. Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect New Yorkers from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bindy Crouch'.

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization