



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD  
Commissioner

August 29, 2022

Dear Colleague,

We would like to inform you of changes to immunization requirements for the upcoming school year and to urge you to identify and schedule appointments for children in your practice who are behind on immunizations. The recent case of paralytic polio identified in Rockland County is a reminder of how important it is for children to receive their routine immunizations on time.

Children must comply with immunization requirements to attend school and child care. Immunizations should be given at the start of the interval recommended by the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) to ensure earliest protection from vaccine-preventable disease, prevent exclusion from school and child care, and avoid issues with insurance companies which may not cover the cost of separate visits for immunizations in-between annual medical visits. As an example, to enter kindergarten, 4-year-old children must have received 2 doses of MMR, five doses of DTaP and 4 doses of polio vaccine, even though the ACIP-recommended interval for these doses is 4 to 6 years. School and child care requirements are posted [here](#); click on #5 at the top of the page for 'Information for Providers.' Updates for the 2022-2023 school year include:

- **Meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY) vaccine:** Changes to the minimum age include:
  - Grades 7-9: doses given at age 10 years or older satisfy the requirement
  - Grades 10-12: doses given earlier than age 10 years continue to satisfy the requirement for the first dose
- **Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster:**
  - Grades 6-8: doses given at age 10 years or older satisfy the requirement
  - Grades 9-12: doses given at age 7 years or older continue to satisfy the vaccination requirement

As in past years, all children 6 months through 59 months of age enrolled in New York City (NYC)-regulated childcare programs, including Head Start, nursery, 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.

The only allowable exemption from immunization requirements for childcare or school is a valid medical contraindication to one or more vaccines in accordance with [ACIP](#). By signing a [medical exemption form](#) for school and childcare, physicians are certifying that a vaccination will be detrimental to a child's health; parental concerns about immunization are not acceptable reasons for an exemption request. As a reminder, mild, acute illness (e.g., low-grade fever, upper respiratory illness, diarrhea, otitis media) is not a contraindication to any vaccine. All exemption requests are reviewed by Department of Health physicians.

We urge you to bring children in for missed immunizations, including those doses needed to be in compliance for childcare and school. Use [tools](#) in the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) to help with reminder/recall. For questions about immunizations, including ordering Vaccine for Children (VFC) vaccine, call (347) 396-2400 or email [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

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