



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 31, 2009

TO: Superintendents of Local and Intermediate School Districts; Principals of All Public, Private and Parochial Schools; and Public School Academy Directors

SUBJECT: Immunization Requirements for Children entering Kindergarten, 6th Grade or Children entering a New School District in Grades 1 - 12 during the 2009 Calendar Year

Vaccine-preventable disease continues to occur in Michigan and may unfortunately result in disability or death. Immunization is a powerful cost-effective measure to protect children from disease. To prevent outbreaks from occurring in school settings and other places where children congregate, a high percentage of children must be immunized.

Since 1978, Michigan law requires that each student upon entry into kindergarten or into a new school district involving grades 1-12 possess a certificate of immunization **at the time of registration or no later than the first day of school**. *Public Act 89 of 2000* mandates that an immunization assessment be completed for each sixth grade student. The above laws (which amend the *Revised School Code*, the *Public Health Code*, and the *State School Aid Act*) were implemented to ensure that children are adequately immunized against vaccine preventable diseases prior to achieving adolescence. Immunization prior to adolescence is important, as some of these diseases become an even greater threat to health upon reaching adolescence.

Prior to a child entering or attending school, parents or guardians are required to produce documentation confirming their child has received all required immunizations, or in the alternative their child received at least one dose of each of the required immunizations and is awaiting receipt of subsequent doses to be administered at appropriate intervals.

There are also three circumstances in which a required vaccine may be waived or delayed:

1. A valid medical contraindication exists precluding the child from receiving the vaccine. **A medical waiver is required to be completed and signed by the child's physician** and shall state the contraindication(s), the vaccine(s) involved, and the time period during which the child is precluded from receiving the vaccine(s).

2. The parents or guardians hold religious or philosophical beliefs which preclude receipt of a vaccination(s). **A waiver must be signed by the parent or guardian with all information completely supplied.**
3. The child has received at least one dose of each immunizing agent and the next dose or doses are not yet due.

A child who fails to meet immunization requirements shall not be admitted to school.

However, children excluded from school entry due to an incomplete immunization schedule may be granted an excused absence by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) if permitted by the local school district board of education. It should be noted, that children excused on "Pupil Membership Count Day" may still be counted for purposes of State School Aid if they physically return to school within 30 calendar days from the date of "Pupil Membership Count Day."

IP-100 reports of children entering a new school are required to be submitted by November 1, 2009, and February 1, 2010, as required by law. **The November 1 report shall include the names of all students who entered and are still enrolled in the school between the dates of January 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009. The February 1 report shall include the names of all students who were enrolled in the school from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.**

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry/Schools Immunization Reporting System (MCIR/SIRS) is a web-based computer application designed to process childhood immunization records and to replace handwritten IP-100 forms. This reporting system allows access to immunization records contained within the MCIR and provides for submission of on-line reports to local health departments. This system also allows for timely and efficient reporting and should be used in circumstances in which there is access to the internet. MCIR/SIRS provides assessment of immunization records according to the most current immunization requirements for children entering a new school district. **Please mail or fax copies of all waivers to your local health department with a copy of the waiver report from MCIR. To assist in completion of immunization reports, a summary of the immunization requirements for new school entries, along with supporting information, are available online at www.mcir.org, under the School/Childcare link.** To obtain technical assistance or to enroll as a MCIR/SIRS user, please contact the MCIR Help Desk at 1-888-243-6652.

For those individuals who will be utilizing a handwritten IP-100 report form, the **white** and **yellow** copies are to be sent to your local health department. The **pink copy** is to be retained for your own records. IP 100 forms should be properly updated to address those students with provisional status who receive additional immunizations or for new students who enroll during the year. Maintenance of up-to-date information is critical in the event that an outbreak of disease were to occur or if an audit is conducted by your local health department or the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). All necessary materials are provided for in this packet and additional forms may be obtained at www.mcir.org. **Please attach copies of all waivers to the IP-100 report when providing to a local health department.**

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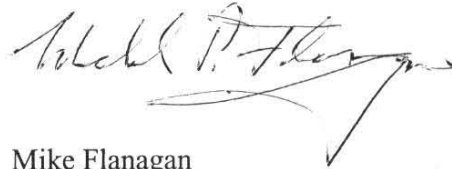
Section 167 of the State School Aid Act (P.A. 94 of 1979) provides that by November 1, 2009, school districts shall have 90% of entering pupils with a completed, appropriately waived or provisional immunization record. Those school districts which are not in compliance will be subject to withholding of five percent of their state school aid funds. February 1, 2010, a minimum of 95% of entering pupils shall have a completed, waived, or provisional immunization record to avoid implementation of the five percent withholding. Submission of immunization records prior to the November and February deadlines will allow your local health department to expedite review of submitted information and allow for data corrections.

Section 380.1177 of the Michigan Public Health Code requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in cooperation with MDCH, to develop information for Michigan schools to address notification of families, with children enrolled in grades 6, 9, and 12, about the risk and prevention of the diseases meningococcal meningitis and human Papillomavirus. Local school notification includes information regarding the symptoms of the diseases, how they are spread, where to obtain additional information about risk factors, risks associated with vaccination against these diseases and where to obtain the vaccines. On-line access to these notification materials is available at www.michigan.gov/immunize or www.michigan.gov/mde.

Questions regarding immunization requirements or requests for additional copies of informational materials should be provided to your local health department. Staff at MDE is also available to discuss school immunization requirements and may be reached at 517-373-1122. We appreciate your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that Michigan's school-aged children are properly immunized.

Sincerely,


Janet Olszewski
Director
Department of Community Health


Mike Flanagan
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Education

Enclosures

cc: Local Health Departments
*<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-380-1177a.pdf>

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