April 24, 2017

RE: 2017 Calendar Year Immunization Requirements for Children Entering Kindergarten, 7th Grade or Children Entering a New School District in Grades 1-12

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

Immunizations are one of the most effective measures in protecting children from harmful diseases and death. The Michigan Public Health Code requires all children who attend school in Michigan to have an up-to-date immunization history or a valid waiver on file per Administrative Rules and report their immunization status to their jurisdictional local health department. **A child who fails to meet these immunization requirements shall not be admitted into the school.**

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that their child has received all required vaccine doses upon school entry.

Since 1978, Michigan law requires that each student possess a certificate of immunization at the time of registration (or no later than the first day of school) for entry into kindergarten, 7th grade, or into a new school district involving grades 1-12.

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

1. The child has received at least one dose of required vaccine(s) and the next dose(s) are not yet due. These children are considered to be in a "provisional" status. Schools are required to follow-up with these students to ensure subsequent doses of vaccine are received and are complete for all required vaccines;

2. The child has a medical contraindication to a vaccine, in this case a Medical Contraindication Form is required to be completed and signed by the child’s primary care physician. The form shall state the medical contraindication(s), the vaccine(s) involved, and the time period during which the child is precluded from receiving the vaccine(s);

3. A parent or guardian holds a religious or philosophical ("other") belief which preclude receipt of vaccination(s). These are nonmedical exemptions and require certification at the local health department.

To meet admission requirements, it is the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) responsibility to bring the original signed current 2017 Nonmedical Waiver Form to your school for entry into the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR)/School Immunization Reporting System (SIRS).

A student who fails to meet school immunization requirements shall not be admitted to school:

- Students excused, on “Pupil Membership Count Day” may still be counted for purposes of the State School Aid, if they physically return to school within 30 calendar days from the date of “Pupil Membership Count Day.”
• **Students excluded from school entry due to an incomplete immunization record may be granted an excused absence by the Michigan Department of Education if permitted by the local school district Board of Education.**

The MCIR/SIRS system must be utilized to meet immunization compliancy with school immunization reporting. This system pulls immunization records contained within the MCIR for students entered into the MCIR/SIRS school roster. All students in both kindergarten and 7th grade need to be placed on the roster as well as any newly enrolled student to the district. The **November 1, 2017** report should include all newly enrolled students from **January 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017**. The **February 1, 2018** report should include the November roster, plus any students starting from **October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017**. The local health department will monitor the progress, timeliness and accuracy of your school(s) immunization compliance reporting.

For those individual programs without internet access, please contact your local health department for approval and guidance to report, using the handwritten **iP-100/101 Immunization Reporting Form**.

Proper maintenance of up-to-date immunization records are critical in the event of an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease, or if an audit is conducted by your local health department or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Copies of the **Nonmedical Waiver and Medical Contraindication Forms** must be submitted no later than November 1, 2017 and February 1, 2018 to the jurisdictional local health department. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to receive education on the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease before obtaining the signed certified **Nonmedical Waiver Form** from their local health department.

Health professionals shall address concerns and/or questions, and then sign the current State of Michigan 2017 **Nonmedical Waiver Form**. Parents seeking a nonmedical exemption must contact the local health department to arrange for the educational session.

The State School Aid Act (PA 94 of 1979) Section 388.1767, requires that school districts shall submit an immunization report of the completed, appropriately waived and provisional immunization by November 1, 2017, and meet a 90% compliancy of the entering students, as listed above. School districts which are not in compliance will be subject to 5% of their state school aid funds being withheld. By February 1, 2018, a minimum of 95% of entering students, as listed above, shall submit a completed, appropriately waived and provisional immunization record to avoid the implementation of another 5% withholding. Submission of immunization records prior to the November and February deadlines will allow your local health department to review the submitted information and assist with data entry corrections.

The Revised School Code, Section 380.1177a* also requires the Michigan Department of Education, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 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 Meningococcal Meningitis and Human Papillomavirus Diseases.

Information regarding the symptoms of vaccine-preventable diseases, how they spread, risk factors, risk associated with vaccination against these diseases, and where to obtain the vaccines are available in this packet. These materials should be distributed to all parent(s)/guardian(s) about the importance of getting their children and adolescents vaccinated with all recommended vaccines. Feel free to print
copies of these materials and include them in any new parent or orientation packets. Please disseminate this information in school newsletters, and any other social media source utilized in your school districts.

Parent handouts can be found at: http://www.aimtoolkit.org/docs/TeenVaccinesInfoForParents.pdf

Information about influenza vaccine is included in this packet and should be shared within the school community. Online access to these notification materials is available at www.michigan.gov/immunize or www.michigan.gov/mde.

A summary of requirements and supporting information is included in this packet and is also posted online at www.mcir.org under the School/Childcare section. Please review this important information to assist you with the completion of the immunization reporting of your students. A request for additional informational materials should be directed to your local health department.

To assist in completion of immunization reports, a summary of the immunization requirements for new school entrants, 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 1-888-243-6952.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that Michigan's children are properly immunized to avoid the ongoing threat of communicability and illness associated with vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Nick Lyon
Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Brian J. Whiston
State Superintendent
Department of Education

Enclosures

c: Local Health Departments