



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR


ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
School Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Robert Gordon^{RA}
Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D. 
State Superintendent, Michigan Department of Education

SUBJECT: 2020 Immunization Requirements for Children Entering Kindergarten and 7th Grade, or Enrolling in a New School District in Grades 1-12

Act Now: add to your registration and back to school information packets. Please share this important information with all staff who will be working with child immunization records at your facility.

Immunizations are one of the most effective and scientifically proven measures to protect children from harmful diseases and death. Since 1978, Michigan law has required that each student have an up-to-date certificate of immunization at the time of registration (or no later than the first day of school) for entry into kindergarten and 7th grade, and for enrollment into a new school district, grades 1-12.

Michigan schools are required to report immunization information regardless of their mode of instruction. Any student who fails to meet the below mentioned immunization requirements shall not be admitted or participate in school classes.

In order for a student to attend school in Michigan, the Michigan Public Health Code requires parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to have one of the following on file with the school:

1. A valid, current immunization record.

[Note: *Provisional Status Vaccines*. In the event the child has received at least one dose of a required vaccine and the next dose is not yet due, the school is required to follow up with the child to ensure s/he has received the required follow-up doses of the vaccine and is up-to-date for all other required vaccines.]

2. A medical doctor's (M.D./D.O.) signed State of Michigan 2020 Medical Contraindication Form, which states the medical contraindication(s), the vaccines involved, and the time period during which the child is not able to get the vaccines.
3. A current, certified State of Michigan 2020 Immunization Nonmedical Immunization Waiver Form required under Michigan Administrative Rules.
[Note: When a parent or legal guardian holds a religious or other objection that prevents a child from receiving vaccines, a 2020 Immunization Nonmedical Waiver Form is required to be completed, signed, and certified at the local health department. The local health department will provide education from a health professional on the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease. Health professionals will address questions and concerns prior to signing the current State of Michigan 2020 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver Form.]

Proper maintenance of up-to-date immunization records, including waivers, is critical and required to be on file for all students. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or the local health department may conduct an audit in the event of an outbreak and/or cases of non-compliance.

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry/School Information Reporting System (MCIR/SIRS) links immunization records contained within the MCIR for students entered on the MCIR/SIRS school roster. All enrolled students in kindergarten and 7th grade, as well as any students newly enrolled to a school district, can be placed on the roster to meet school immunization reporting requirements. Consent is required to enter data into MCIR/SIRS or to share MCIR data maintained by the school.

The FERPA "Consent for Disclosure" template can be modified to include your school information. The FERPA "Consent for Disclosure" template and additional guidance on immunization reporting can be found at www.mcir.org under School & Childcare, Reporting to the Health Department.

Once the FERPA "Consent for Disclosure" form is signed and returned to the attending school, data can be added to MCIR/SIRS in compliance with FERPA regulations. Without a "Consent for Disclosure", the school cannot enter immunization data into MCIR/SIRS.

If a student is 18-years or older, they are considered an "eligible student" who may provide their own "Consent for Disclosure" of information from their education records. Please review the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document regarding FERPA Consent for Disclosure.

In the event that a FERPA consent form has not been received, or is not on file, for a student:

1. The “No FERPA” consent box in MCIR/SIRS must be checked.
2. Viewing existing immunization information in the MCIR/SIRS system does not violate FERPA and children can remain on the school roster. Schools must be compliant with FERPA if the immunization data in MCIR becomes part of the school records or shared in any way.
3. If there is no FERPA consent on file, and the provider-entered data indicates that the student has not completed the required school immunizations, additional immunization data should not be entered into MCIR/SIRS and the immunization information should be reported to the local health department using the “Immunization Reporting Form for Students with No FERPA Consent” document.

The immunization status for a “No Consent Student” must still be reported to the local health department using the “Immunization Reporting Form for Students with No FERPA Consent”. To protect student privacy, this form should only contain aggregate non-identifiable information for students who do not have a consent on file. **Those students being reported on this form should be removed from the student roster in MCIR/SIRS, so they are not reported twice.** The completed “Immunization Reporting Form for Students with No FERPA Consent” form must be submitted to the local health department each November and February when the MCIR/SIRS report is completed. The local health department will add aggregate data following school closure.

Districts should contact their local health department for other means of school immunization reporting if MCIR/SIRS is not available.

To obtain technical assistance, or to enroll as a MCIR/SIRS user, districts may contact their local health department or the MCIR Help Desk at 1-888-243-6652. **Please see the enclosed handout, “Important School and Childcare Immunization and Resources”, for additional guidance about school immunization reporting.**

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation to ensure Michigan’s children are properly immunized to avoid the ongoing threat of illness associated with vaccine-preventable diseases.

Immunization guidance documents can be accessed at: <https://www.mcir.org/school-childcare/reporting-immunization-program-status-to-the-health-department/>

RG:jj

Enclosures

cc: Michigan Local Health Departments
Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors