



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

March 10, 2016

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

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Colleague:

We would like to make you aware of upcoming changes to child care and school immunization requirements that will be in effect for the 2016-17 year in New York City (NYC). Since there will be significant changes in requirements, we encourage you to take every opportunity between now and the start of school in the fall to bring your patients into compliance. Highlights of the changes are as follows:

- Students entering 7th grade will need to have had 1 dose of the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (MCV4). Students entering 12th grade will need to have had 2 doses of MCV4, or only 1 dose of MCV4 if the first dose was administered at sixteen years of age or older.
- Students **entering** grades K, 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 will be required to have had 4 doses of polio vaccine, unless the 3rd dose was received at 4 years of age or older, in which case only 3 doses are required. Three doses of polio vaccine are required for all other grades.
- Students **entering** grades K, 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 will be required to have had 2 doses of varicella vaccine. One dose will be required for all other grades.

The full requirements will be sent at a later date. Requirements continue to be in alignment with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations with respect to number of doses required of each vaccine and the intervals between doses; see www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules. Students who are not in compliance with school immunization requirements will be excluded from school.

Recent evidence demonstrates the effectiveness and significant impact of the HPV vaccine in reducing HPV prevalence among adolescents. However, HPV vaccine coverage remains significantly below coverage for other recommended adolescent vaccines and the Healthy People 2020 goals. We urge you to administer HPV vaccine to all your 11-12 year-old patients at the same time that you administer the school-required Tdap and MCV4 vaccines. For tips on talking to parents about this vaccine and education materials, visit www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/answering-questions.html.

If you have questions about immunization requirements for school admission, please contact us at (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. Thank you for keeping NYC children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc