



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

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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 ensure you are aware of changes to the daycare and school immunization requirements that became effective July 1st. These changes bring the school requirements into alignment with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations with respect to number of doses required of each vaccine and the spacing intervals between doses; see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>. Alternative schedules are explicitly not allowed.

New York City (NYC) school requirements are available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/sch-med-req.pdf>. Highlights of the changes are as follows:

- Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade need to have had a dose of DTaP or Tdap after their 4th birthday and may require between 4 and 5 doses of DTaP.
- Children entering either kindergarten or 6th grade, and who have had no doses of polio vaccine after their 4th birthday, need an additional dose.
- Children entering either kindergarten or 6th grade need to have had two doses of varicella vaccine.
- Children attending child care require one dose of influenza vaccine before December 31st.

Additional information on the new school requirements, including Frequently Asked Questions and detailed footnotes (on page 2 of the New York State [NYS] schedule), is available on the NYS Department of Health website at https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/updated_school_imm_requirements.htm

In nearly all cases, if the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) record says that a child's immunization status is up-to-date (UTD), then that child may be considered UTD for school, as well. One exception to this is children entering the sixth grade for whom the CIR record says that a child is UTD for polio vaccine; the CIR does *not* retrospectively require the fourth dose of polio to be administered after the 4th birthday, so a child may *still* need another dose of polio vaccine if the last dose was not given after the 4th birthday.

If you have any questions about immunization requirements for school admission, please contact us at (347) 396-2400 or e-mail nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. We thank you for keeping New York City children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc