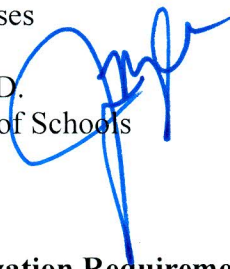


MEMORANDUM

<http://wvde.state.wv.us>

TO: Superintendents
School Principals
School Nurses
Attendance Directors
School Counselors
Special Education Directors
Student Health Services Directors
Pre-K Coordinators
Universal Pre-K Classes

FROM: Jorea M. Marple, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: August 28, 2012

RE: **Adolescent Immunization Requirements for the 2012/13 School Year**

As a new school year begins, an easy way to ensure the health and active attendance of all students is by the enforcement of the vaccination rules. W.Va. Code §16-3-4, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) Legislative Rule 64CSR95 and West Virginia Board of Education Policies 2423-Communicable Disease Control, 2525-PreK and 4110-Attendance require immunizations for all new enterers including PreK, new enterers in grades K-12, students participating in extracurricular activities and grades 7 and 12 starting this school year. West Virginia immunization laws allow for medical exemptions only. Religious and philosophical exemptions are not recognized as valid exemptions for school entry.

The new seventh and 12th grade vaccination requirements became effective on June 1, 2012 and include extracurricular activities (section 2.3 of the Immunization Rule). Dr. Marian Swinker, commissioner of the WVDHHR/Bureau of Public Health and state health officer for Public Health, is allowing a **ONE-TIME, 2-WEEK GRACE PERIOD** for implementation of this rule.

The grace period will start with the 2012-2013 school year, allowing all parents and guardians of seventh and 12th grade students two weeks to provide local school systems with immunization records. Please review Dr. Swinker's official Adolescent Immunization Grace Period memo at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/section6/documents/Dr.SwinkerAdolescentImmunizationGracePeriodMemoJuly192012.pdf>.

August 28, 2012

RE: Adolescent Immunization Requirements

The following immunizations will be required:

- Students entering seventh grade must show proof of a booster dose of Tdap vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a dose of the meningococcal vaccine.
- Students entering 12th grade must show proof of a single dose of Tdap vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a booster dose of the meningococcal vaccine, if the first dose of meningococcal was given before the
- Child's 16th birthday. If the first dose was given after the 16th birthday, then a booster dose of meningococcal is not required.

The West Virginia Department of Education has developed Talking Points for county schools working with the media, an updated Immunization Frequently Asked Questions document and Step-by-Step Recommendations for immunization law compliance at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/healthyschools/section6/SchoolHealthServicesUpdate.htm>. I hope you find these documents to be useful tools as schools serve in the extremely important capacity of immunization record gatekeepers in preventing the outbreak of diseases. Please work closely with your local health departments to educate and inform parents of vaccine preventable diseases.

All new enterers and new transfer students must have at least one dose of each vaccine required by law to provisionally enter public schools. The provisional enrollment is temporary until the next recommended dose(s) is able to be administered by a medical provider, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) dosage timeframes. Should the vaccination(s) not be completed during the provisional enrollment period, please note the parent has not met the school enrollment requirements for the student to continue a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). West Virginia currently has precedential cases supporting state immunization laws (Workman vs. Mingo County Board of Education). By ensuring immunization requirements for student enrollments are met is a simple way for schools to enhance the health and learning conditions for all students and school personnel. Current immunization documents and rules are posted at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/immunization/requirements/Pages/default.aspx>.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Healthy Schools if you have questions regarding the clarifications in this memorandum at (304) 558-8830, or e-mail cboehm@access.k12.wv.us or rjking@access.k12.wv.us.

JM/RJK

Attachment

cc: Amelia Courts
Robert Hull
Pat Homborg
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Gary Ray
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Traci Dalton