



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
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Penelope Slade-Sawyer
Division Director

November 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: NC School Superintendents
NC School Principals
Principals/Headmasters of Private and Religious Schools

FROM: Wendy Holmes, RN, Head *WH*
NC Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Immunization Rule Changes Affecting Vaccine Requirements for School Entry at Kindergarten and Seventh Grade

The purpose of this memo is to announce changes in the immunization rules relating to school entry requirements. On May 14, 2014, the North Carolina Commission for Public Health approved new vaccine requirements as documented in NC Administrative Code 10A NCAC 41A. 0401 *Dosage and Age Requirements for Immunization*. The changes were made to more closely align NC with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. These changes will take effect beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

Effective July 1, 2015, the administrative rule, **10A NCAC 41A. 0401**, has been changed, adding revised and new requirements at kindergarten and seventh grade entry. The rule changes are listed below:

- Kindergarten
 - Polio vaccine – the booster (4th) dose is required on or after the 4th birthday and before entering school for the first time.
 - Varicella vaccine – 2 doses administered at least 28 days apart.
 - Second dose before entering school for the first time.
 - Documentation of disease must be from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant verifying history of varicella disease. Documentation must include the name of the individual with history of disease, approximate date or age of infection and a healthcare provider signature.
- Seventh Grade
 - Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) – Tdap
 - Booster dose of Tdap for individuals who have not previously received it and are entering 7th grade or by 12 years of age whichever comes first.
 - Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)– 2 doses
 - One dose for individuals entering 7th grade or by 12 years of age whichever comes first.
 - Booster dose for individuals entering the 12 grade or 17 years of age beginning August 1, 2020.
 - If the first dose is administered after the 16th birthday the booster dose is not required.

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov • www.immunize.nc.gov

Tel 919-707-5550 • Fax 919-870-4824

Location: 5601 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609

Mailing Address: 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1917

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The 2008 Tdap rule change has been revised to allow for simultaneous vaccine administration of Tdap and MCV at the recommended age of 11-12 year olds. In addition, the rule change allows public and private schools to have the same requirement.

This rule change will also affect the reporting of the vaccination status of students. Previously schools reported the vaccination status of kindergartners and sixth graders. For the 2015-2016 school year reports will be for the kindergarten and seventh grade students.

Early in 2015 resources about the rule change to help you educate the parents and staff at your school will be available on our website at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov>.

Questions regarding these changes in vaccination requirements should be addressed to your Regional School Nurse Consultant, or by calling the Immunization Branch Central Office, at 919-707-5550.

cc: CO Staff Vaccine Manufacturers Elizabeth Hudgins RINs Greg Griggs
Terri Pennington Desiree Elekwa-Izuakor Jason Swartz RICs Ann Nichols
Frank Skwara Chris Minard