

July 2020

To: New Mexico Public and Private School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Principals, School Nurses, and Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

Re: New Mexico 2020-2021 School Entry Immunization Requirements

Each year the Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) meets to discuss New Mexico School Entry Immunization Requirements. Any changes are thoughtfully discussed and voted on by a group of appointed, experienced immunization professionals. These changes are based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annual recommendations. The VAC makes recommendations and the Secretary makes final decisions which the Public Health Division supervises.


The schedule continues to incorporate changes related to the grade phasing-in process for required vaccinations. This year, the Meningococcal vaccine requirement will be required for 7th and 8th grade entry. In addition, DOH has also updated the schedule to reflect the requirement of 2 doses of Hep A vaccine to include Kindergarten.

At this time, HPV vaccine will not be required for 7th grade entry but will continue to be strongly recommended as part of the adolescent platform as is considered best practice.

Other changes in immunization requirements for the 2020-2021 school year are otherwise minor and are listed in the column to the left.

Acceptable forms of proof of immunization status includes a NMSIIS printout, printout from provider's Electronic Medical Record or immunization record card.

NOTE: School vaccine requirements are still in force if students are enrolled in online studies, home schooling or other adaptations due to COVID.


Kathyleen M. Kunkel
Cabinet Secretary

- NMSA 1978, § 24-5-2 makes it unlawful for any student to enroll in school unless the student is immunized, or otherwise properly exempted.
- NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4, 7.5.2.8 NMAC and 6.12.2.8(F) NMAC authorize and require each school superintendent to prepare a record showing the immunization status of every child enrolled or attending a school under his or her jurisdiction.
- Additionally, 6.12.2.8 NMAC requires that schools start disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide satisfactory evidence of commencement or completion of immunization or an exemption from immunization.
- Section 6.12.2.8 NMAC and NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4 also stipulate that parents or guardians who neglect or refuse to permit their child to be immunized against diseases as required by law shall be reported by the school superintendent to the director of the public health division.
- Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistant Act [42 USC § 11432(g)(3)(C)], children experiencing homelessness must be able to enroll in school immediately, even if they are unable to produce immunization records. If the child needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization records, the enrolling school must immediately refer the parent or guardian to the designated local educational agency (LEA) homeless education liaison for assistance.

Revisions and Additions 2020-21

Men (ACWY)

One dose required for 7th and 8th grade.

Hep A

2 doses required for Kindergarten.

Varicella

K-5th grade, Proof of Immunity is receipt of vaccine, titer or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of prior disease. For **all newly diagnosed Varicella cases**, laboratory confirmation of disease is required.

Referral to CDC Immunization Schedule for exceptions and questions

School nurses with questions that are not addressed by the NM School Requirements, should consult the footnotes of the CDC childhood and adolescent IZ schedule

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