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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and
Nonpublic Schools
Charter School Administrators
School Health Personnel

From: Renee L. Rider

Subject: Immunization Regulation Revisions

The Education Department is writing to inform you that the New York State Department of Health has revised the regulations regarding immunization requirements for school attendance effective July 1, 2014. The new dosing requirements are based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

A chart summarizing these new requirements for the 2014-2015 school year is available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf>.

The Office of Student Support Services, within the Department, is in the process of updating the *Immunization Guidelines for Schools* to accurately reflect these changes. Until the guidelines become available we would like to take this opportunity to highlight changes below:

- Students entering kindergarten or 6th grade in the 2014-2015 school year will now be required to have two doses of the varicella (chicken pox) vaccine and 3-4 doses of poliomyelitis vaccine. All other students will be able to attend school this year with one dose of varicella, and 3 doses of poliomyelitis. This new requirement will apply to all 2014-2015 incoming kindergarten and 6th grades students, along with the subsequent grade levels that the 2014-2015 kindergarten and 6th grade students move up to.
- Students in grades pre-K or K through 6 will be required to have age-appropriate doses of DPT or DTaP, in accordance with the ACIP schedule.
- Two doses of MMR are no longer required for entrance into kindergarten, though students must have two doses by age 7.
- A student who is in process is defined as one who has had the first dose of all required immunization series and has appointments to complete the series in accordance with the ACIP catch up schedule. See <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>. A student who is in process must be allowed to attend school.
- Students may present proof of immunity by serology (blood test) to the following immunizations: measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella, and poliomyelitis.
- Medical exemptions to immunizations must be reissued annually. The written exemption must identify the immunization exempted, the medical contraindication for the exemption, and the length of time immunization is contraindicated. A sample medical exemption form is available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/>

More detailed information on immunization requirements including FAQ, exclusions for disease outbreak for district medical directors and school nurses, can be obtained on the Department of Health's Immunization page at <http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/>. Contact information for local regional offices of the New York State Department of Health's Immunization Program is available at http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_1_regional_field_offices.htm

Please share this information with all of your school's health services personnel.

If you have questions please call our Office of Student Support Services at 518-486-6090, or visit The Statewide Center for School Health Services website at www.schoolhealthservices.ny.com