



Important Immunization Information for our GISNY Community

The Requirements:

New York's Public Health Law §2164 and New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Title 10, require certain immunizations for school entry and continued attendance in all public and private schools in New York State. In addition, schools are required to maintain an immunization record for each student enrolled in the school.

Source: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/docs/phl_title_vi.pdf

The Process for Incomplete Records:

GISNY may permit a **'grace period'** for students whose records are incomplete provided a **'good faith'** effort has been made to secure the required immunizations.

- In order to demonstrate 'a good faith effort', the following documentation is required:
 - A note from the pediatrician/provider indicating the date of the appointment(s) for the required immunization(s).
- The grace period is limited:
 - The grace period permitted may be no longer than 14 calendar days.
 - For students from out of state or overseas, the grace period may be extended to no longer than 30 days.

Source: <https://regs.health.ny.gov/volume-1a-title-10/981229062/section-66-11-definitions>

Some additional points:

GISNY – specifically *'the principal or person in charge of a school'* - is required by law to exclude students who are 'not in compliance', that is students with incomplete records after the grace period (if granted) has expired.

GISNY is required by law to electronically file an annual immunization survey with the Department of Health attesting to the completeness of our records.

Source: <https://regs.health.ny.gov/content/section-66-14-requirements-continued-school-attendance>

Audit and Enforcement Authority:

The Department of Health (DOH) has the legal authority to audit a school's immunization records at any time, and to bring legal action to compel schools to comply with the law.

The DOH conducts school audits based on several risk factors including schools with low complete immunization rates as well as those "small pockets of at-risk populations that are more likely to have low immunization rates, *particularly at private schools – and especially those with a large international student population.*" p. 8

Source: <http://osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093016/15s85.pdf>

What this effectively means for our GISNY community:

- GISNY must always be audit-ready.
- In instances where there is an immunization outstanding, being audit-ready means that we have a written note from a health care provider indicating the date of the upcoming appointment for the required immunization(s).
- GISNY is legally bound to exclude any student not in compliance with the immunization requirements.

How do we make this work for our GISNY Community?

- The good news is that most students entering our school are fully immunized according to the New York requirements!
- Finding a great pediatrician is important when families relocate to New York. Please contact our school nurse for information on local pediatricians.
- When choosing a pediatrician for your family the following considerations are important: the pediatrician's approach/philosophy; the location; language and cultural congruence; gender, and feedback from friends.
- Once your child has started with a pediatrician, 'immunization only' visits with the practice nurse can always be arranged in a timely fashion, many times on the same day.
- Please be assured that pediatricians know the requirements for school and will always work with our parents to provide the necessary documentation.