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MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals and Independent School Headmasters
From: Mark Levine, M.D., Commissioner, Department of Health
Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education
Date: May 22, 2019
Subject: Compliance with Vermont's Immunization Law and Regulations



The importance of children being fully vaccinated has been highlighted by a record number of measles cases across the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from January 1 to May 10, 2019, 839 people from 23 states were reported to have measles, the majority of whom were not vaccinated. Regional cases have been reported in MA, NY, NH, as well as Quebec, Canada.

To protect against measles, 95% of children in a child care or school setting must be immunized with the MMR vaccine. This creates a level of "community immunity" that can keep the disease from spreading. The good news is that overall, 97% of Vermont kindergarten through 12th grade students met the two-dose requirement for MMR vaccine. However, wide variation exists among Vermont schools – ranging from 0–100% coverage – creating pockets of vulnerability where measles can easily spread.

Enclosed is a document with your school's immunization coverage rate. Data for all schools is posted on the Health Department's vaccination coverage web page, <http://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/immunization/vaccination-coverage>

This spring, in order to be as protective as possible of the health of all our students, we expect school personnel will review the enclosed data and assure that follow up of non-compliant students has taken place. Families of students who are provisionally enrolled, and of exempt students, should be instructed to receive needed vaccines over the summer and advised that adherence to the school entry requirements will be strictly enforced in the fall, especially in light of nationwide measles outbreaks. http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ID_IZ_K12_school_law_procedural_flow_sheet.pdf

For more information about immunizations for pre-kindergarten and K–12 students, visit the Health Department's web page for child care and school providers, <http://www.healthvermont.gov/immunizations-infectious-disease/immunization/child-care-school-providers>

If you have questions, please call the Health Department's Immunization Program at 802-863-7638 or email AHS.VDHImmunizationProgram@vermont.gov