

Revisions and Additions 2025-26

Varicella

K-10th grade, proof of immunity: Receipt of vaccine; titer; or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of prior disease.

For all newly diagnosed Varicella cases, laboratory confirmation of disease is required.

Hepatitis A

Two doses required for K-4th grade.

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 immunization schedule.

February 2025

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

Re: **New Mexico 2025-2026 School Entry Immunization Requirements**

Each year the Vaccine Advisory Group (VAG) 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 and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annual recommendations. The VAG makes recommendations, and the Cabinet 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. Two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine will now be required, rolled up to K-4th grade.

HPV, COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines are not required for school entry but will continue to be strongly recommended at the appropriate ages as is best practice.

Acceptable forms of proof of immunization status include a New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) vax view 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. Thank you for keeping New Mexico's children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.



for
Gina DeBlassie
Interim 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.