

IMMUNIZATION AND DENTAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS

I. Statement of Policy

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases and in recognition that prevention is a means of combating the spread of disease, the Board of Education (the Board) of the Waterville Central School District (the District) requires that all pupils be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with New York State Education Law §903 and Public Health Law §2164.

II. Immunization Requirements

A. No child may be admitted to school or allowed to attend school in excess of fourteen (14) days without appropriate certification of immunization. The fourteen (14) day period may be extended by the Building Principal to thirty (30) days for a student transferring from out of state/out of country. If the child is obtaining serological tests, the parent(s) or guardian has a total of thirty (30) days from the start of attendance to provide test results and, if negative test results, appointment dates to begin or complete the vaccine series.

B. The Parent/Guardian of each student must present a certificate of immunization specifying the dates of administration and signed by a health practitioner upon registration. Such certificate must meet the New York State requirements for immunization against poliomyelitis, pertussis, tetanus, Hepatitis B, varicella, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, meningococcal disease and, where applicable due to enrollment in a Pre-Kindergarten program, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and pneumococcal conjugate (PCV). Acceptable documents and proof of immunity also include:

1. An electronic health record.
2. An immunization record issued by New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) or Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).
3. An out-of-state immunization registry specifying the dates and products administered.
4. An official record from a foreign nation may be accepted without a health practitioner's signature.
5. Immunization records from a previous school.
6. A statement verifying history of varicella, diagnosed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant (10 NYCRR 66-1.3(a)).
7. Serological proof of immunity for specific diseases (10 NYCRR 66-1.5).

C. The only exceptions which may excuse a student from the above immunization requirements are:

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1. if a physician testifies or certifies that administering the vaccine is detrimental to the specific youngster's health, or
2. if a student has had the first dose of all required immunization series and has appointments to complete the series in accordance with the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) catch up schedule as published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
3. if student presents proof of immunity by serology (blood test) to the following immunizations; measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), poliomyelitis, or
4. if student presents proof of immunity by diagnosis of disease for varicella.

III. Exemptions

The only exception which may excuse a student from the above immunization or in-process requirements and permit them to attend school are:

A. If a signed, completed medical exemption form, approved by the NYS Department of Health, is received from a physician licensed to practice medicine in New York State certifying that administering the vaccine is detrimental to the specific child's health. A medical exemption must be re-issued annually.

1. Medical exemptions to immunizations must be reissued annually. The written exemption must identify:
 - a. the immunization exempted,
 - b. the medical contraindication for the exemption, and
 - c. the length of time immunization is contraindicated.
2. The Superintendent or designee may request additional information supporting the exemption, if necessary.

B. Susceptible Students

The School Nurses shall maintain a complete and current list of susceptible students who are at risk in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease listed in Public Health Law §2164. The list of susceptible students must include all students who:

1. have a current medical exemption to immunization(s);

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2. students who are in process; or
3. who are awaiting the results of serologic testing.

The list must be updated each time a new student enrolls or a student's immunization status changes

IV. Procedures

- A. The District will develop procedures for documenting all communication, along with efforts undertaken by school personnel to assist the parent/guardian in meeting the immunization requirements.
- B. The District must notify the local health department of any child who is refused admittance or continued attendance due to the lack of immunizations.
- C. The District shall notify the Child Protective Services (CPS) after more than fourteen (14) days of the student's exclusion from school if the parent refuses to allow the local department of health or another appropriate health practitioner to immunize their child, and no action steps are reported by the parent/guardian for pursuing another education option such as homeschooling.
- D. The District shall annually provide an immunization survey to the New York State Commissioner of Health on the Health Commence System website.
- E. A student denied entrance or attendance due to failure of meeting health immunization standards may appeal to the Commissioner of Education.

V. Right to Appeal

A student denied entrance or attendance due to failure to meet health immunization standards may appeal to the Commissioner of Education.

VI. Immunization Surveys and Audits

- A. The District shall annually provide an immunization survey to the New York State Commissioner of Health on the Health Commerce System website.
- B. Schools should retain copies of all immunization records, and evidence of medical exemptions, for six (6) years, or three (3) years after the individual attains the age of eighteen (18), whichever is longer.

VII. Dental Health

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- A. The Parent/Guardian of each student shall be requested to furnish a dental health certificate in the same year the health appraisal is required. If a dental certificate is provided, it must meet the standards of the Commissioner's Regulations Section 136 and Education Law Section 903 and may be signed by a registered dental hygienist or licensed dentist.
- B. The list of dentists available to conduct examination on a free or reduced cost basis compiled by SED is available to parents/guardians by calling the New York State Dental Foundation at 1-800-255-2100.
- C. Additionally students may receive on-site dental services during designated time periods of the school year through a district partnership. The program is available regardless of insurance coverage or status.

Waterville Central School District

Legal Ref: NYS Education Law §§ 903, 914(1), 310(6-a);
Public Health Law, §§613, 2164 and 2805-h; 10 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 66.

Adopted: 01/27/98

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