Immunizations: What you need to know



1. Immunization Rules Affect North Carolina's Students

New vaccine requirements and changes to previous vaccine requirements will become effective **July 1, 2015**.

On May 14, 2014 the North Carolina Commission for Public Health approved new vaccine requirements and changes to existing requirements as documented in North Carolina Administrative Code 10A NCAC 41A.0401 *Dosage and Age Requirements for Immunization*. The changes were made to more closely align NC requirements with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

New Vaccine Requirements

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) – 2 doses

- One dose is required for individuals entering the 7th grade or by 12 years of age whichever comes first.
- Booster dose is required for individuals entering the 12th grade or 17 years of age beginning August 1, 2020.
- If the first dose is administered on or after the 16th birthday the booster dose is not required.

Changes to Previous Vaccine Requirements

Polio vaccine – the booster (4th) dose is required on or after the 4th birthday and before entering school for the first time.

Varicella vaccine – 2 doses administered at least 28 days apart

- One dose is required on or after 12 months of age and before 19 months.
- A second dose is required before entering school for the first time.
- Documentation of disease must be from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant verifying history of varicella disease. Documentation must include the name of the individual with history of disease, approximate date or age of infection and a healthcare provider signature.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) – Tdap

- A booster dose of Tdap is required for individuals who have not previously received Tdap and who are entering 7th grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.

School Entry Requirement Change from 6th to 7th Grade

- Allows for simultaneous administration of Tdap and MCV vaccines at the 11-12 year old recommendation.

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2. Principals are Responsible

The existing immunization law G.S. 130A-155 specifically requires that the parent, guardian, or responsible person must present a Certificate of Immunization on the child's first day of attendance to the principal of the school or operator of the facility. If a Certificate of Immunization is not presented on the first day, the principal or operator shall present a notice of deficiency to the parent, guardian or responsible person. The parent, guardian or responsible person shall have 30 calendar days from the first day of attendance to obtain the required immunization for the child.

3. Children Not in Compliance Will be Suspended

Upon termination of 30 calendar days the principal or operator shall not permit the child to attend the school or facility unless the required immunization has been obtained.

4. Work with Your School Nurse and Staff to Inform the Parents

We encourage you to work with your school nurse to make sure parents are aware of the current immunization requirements and also to make sure the requirements are met in a timely manner. Materials to help you educate parents about the immunization requirements for school entry are available at **www.immunize.nc.gov**.

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