

Implementation of Immunization Regulations

August 2009

What is new regarding immunizations for the school year 2009-2010?

There is one revision to the 2009 – 2010 immunization requirements: Varicella (chickenpox) and Hepatitis B vaccines will be required for students entering preschool programs through 12th grade.

Are students required to have a second varicella vaccine or be excluded from school this coming year?

A second dose of varicella is only required for students 13 years and older if they do not have proof of vaccination at an age younger than 13 years of age. See below for the text on this from the COMAR 10.06.04.03.

“Varicella. (i) All doses of Varicella vaccine shall be given when the student is 1 year old or older. (ii) Per the schedule of implementation in §E of this regulation and except as provided in §D(2)(j)(iii) of this regulation, one dose of live Varicella vaccine is required for a student younger than 13 years old, or two doses of live Varicella vaccine are required for a student 13 years old or older, if the student does not have proof of vaccination against Varicella at an age younger than 13 years old. (iii) Proof of immunity from Varicella by blood test or by medical diagnosis indicated by month and year of diagnosis may be provided instead of meeting the requirements of §D(2)(j)(ii) of this regulation.”

What if a student does not have the required immunizations at the beginning of the school year?

Students have up to 20 calendar days to get a valid immunization record from their health care provider. If the missing documentation is not presented to the school by the due date, the student will not be allowed back into school until the required records have been provided.

Can students be excluded from school if they have not received their second and third Hepatitis B vaccines?

Yes, students must complete the Hepatitis B series as part of the immunization requirements. If the student misses a vaccine in the series, he or she has up to 20 calendar days to get the vaccination and documentation from his or her health care provider. If the missing documentation is not presented to the school by the due date, the student will not be allowed back into school until the required records have been provided.

If you have additional questions concerning vaccine requirements for school, please contact your school nurse or local health department.