



June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As of June 13, 2019, public, private and parochial schools and child care programs in New York can no longer accept requests for religious exemptions from school immunization requirements. This law applies to students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and to all child care settings. Schools and child care programs will continue to accept medical exemptions.

Children attending summer or year-round programming

Children who had a religious exemption and who will be attending child care or public, private or parochial school in the summer must now receive the first age-appropriate dose in each immunization series by June 28, 2019 to attend or remain in school or child care. Additionally, by July 14, 2019, parents and guardians of such children must show that they have scheduled appointments for all required follow-up doses.

Children attending until the end of the school year and returning in the 2019-20 school year

Students must meet immunization requirements in order to attend school. Children who have not received all required immunizations must receive the first dose in each immunization series within 14 calendar days after the first day of school or enrollment in child care. Within 30 calendar days of the first day of school, parents or guardians of such children will also need to show that they have scheduled appointments for all follow-up doses.

A list of the new school immunization requirements for the 2019-20 school year is summarized below.

All students in child care through grade 12 must meet the requirements for the following vaccines:

- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis or whooping cough)
- Poliovirus
- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Hepatitis B

Children under age 5 who are enrolled in child care and pre-kindergarten must also meet the requirements for these vaccines:

- Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)
- PCV (pneumococcal disease)
- Influenza (flu): Children must receive the flu vaccine by December 31, 2019

Children in grades 6 through 12 must also meet the requirements for these vaccines:

- Tdap booster (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis)
- MenACWY (meningococcal disease)

Please review your child's immunization history with their health care provider. Their provider can tell you whether additional doses of one or more vaccines are required for your child to attend or remain in child care or school. Visit schools.nyc.gov and search for "immunizations" for a full list of required vaccines. If it is not possible for your child to receive their vaccines from their health care provider, the Department of Health has one walk-in immunization clinic (www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/immunization-clinics.page).

For questions about these requirements, please contact your child care center or school's administrative office.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization