



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, MD, Secretary

February 24, 2014

Dear School Principal/School Administrator:

This letter is to inform you about recent changes to the school immunization requirements effective at the beginning of the 2014-2015 School Year. The new requirements are contained in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.04.03. The changes to COMAR 10.06.04 include the following new immunization requirements:

New COMAR School Immunization Requirements Effective 2014-2015 School Year	
Grade Level	New Immunization Requirement
Kindergarten Students	<u>Varicella</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine are required for Kindergarten
7th Grade Students	<u>Tdap</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all students entering 7th grade
	<u>Meningococcal</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single dose of Meningococcal vaccine is required for all students entering 7th grade

COMAR 10.06.04.03 A states, “A preschool or school principal or other person in charge of a preschool or school, public or private, may not knowingly admit a student to or retain a student” in a preschool or school without evidence of the required immunizations. Student immunization records should be presented and reviewed to ensure compliance. Students who are non-compliant or who have not presented their immunization record may be temporarily admitted to school. These students may be given **up to 20 calendar days to present evidence** of receiving the required immunizations or a documented medical contraindication.

An important factor in assuring compliance with COMAR immunization requirements is enforcement of the exclusion requirement. If the missing documentation is not presented to the school by the due date, the child must be excluded the next school day and may not return until records are provided by the parent to show current immunization compliance. Sample exclusion letters and other back-to-school immunization information can be found on the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for Immunization website.

I have enclosed a copy of COMAR 10.06.04.01-.10 and a summary chart showing School Year 2014-2015 immunization requirements by grade level for students enrolled in public and private schools for your review. These documents are designed to assist you and your staff in reviewing immunizations records to ensure compliance with the new school requirements. Please review the enclosed information carefully.

School Principal/School Administrator

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If you have any questions about immunization requirements or enforcement of immunization regulations, please contact your School Health Services Coordinator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GR' with a stylized flourish.

Greg K. Reed, MPA
Program Manager
DHMH Center for Immunization

cc: School Health Services Coordinators