



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

March 11, 2014

Dear Vaccine Provider:

This letter is to inform you about new 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.

New School Immunization Requirements - Effective 2014-2015 School Year	
Grade Level	New Immunization Requirement
Kindergarten Students	<u>Varicella</u> Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine are required for Kindergarten
7 th Grade Students	<u>Tdap</u> A single dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all students entering 7 th grade
	<u>Meningococcal (MCV4)</u> A single dose of MCV4 vaccine is required for all students entering 7 th grade

Your assistance is needed to ensure that every Kindergarten and 7th grade student has received the vaccinations needed to be admitted to school this fall. By law, a public or private school principal or school administrator may not admit or retain a student in school without documentation of the new required vaccinations. Schools already have begun notifying parents of the new requirements.

Please begin to assess your patient records to determine which students need to be recalled for vaccination. Please also begin to determine how your office will meet the increased demand for vaccination and vaccination documentation. Some suggestions include:

- Holding vaccination-only clinics on weeknights or weekends;
- Offering vaccination-only appointments; and
- Using the Maryland immunization registry, ImmuNet, to print the student immunization certificate (DHMH 896).

The Maryland VFC Program will begin shipping additional quantities of varicella, Tdap, and MCV4 vaccine in the next few weeks. **When your patients come for these newly-required vaccinations, please take the opportunity to administer other recommended vaccines, such as HPV (3 doses), Influenza, and Hepatitis A vaccines.** While these vaccinations are not required for school entry, they are recommended for adolescents by CDC, AAP, AAFP, and the Maryland Medicaid Program.

A summary chart showing all School Year 2014-2015 immunization requirements by grade level for students enrolled in public and private schools can be found on the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for Immunization website along with information on ImmuNet. Please call or email, DHMH.IZinfo@maryland.gov, the VFC Contact Center if you have any special vaccine-related needs or require technical assistance.

Sincerely,

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