IMMUNIZATIONS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Immuneonization Against Communicable Diseases

Under state Public Health Law 2164, in order to be enrolled in or attend District schools, children must be fully immunized against certain communicable diseases. Those diseases are: poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal disease, and hepatitis B.

“Fully immunized” means that the child has either (1) received the required vaccinations for these diseases as set forth in state law and regulations; (2) for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, or varicella only, shown immunity with a positive blood test for those disease antibodies; or (3) for varicella only, has had the disease, verified by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant. Parents must provide acceptable proof indicating required receipt of all vaccines in accordance with law and regulations. A child may be excluded from the immunization requirements based on a physician determined health reason or condition. This medical exemption must be signed by a physician licensed to practice in New York State. A child may also be excluded from the immunization requirements because the child’s parent/guardian holds a genuine and sincere religious belief which is contrary to the practice of immunization.

In the event that a parent is unable to provide an immunization record, the school nurse, or other authorized District official, will access the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) to determine if the child has met immunization requirements. If the system indicates that the child has received the required vaccinations, the information will be entered as part of the student’s record, the source and date noted, and the documentation requirement will have been met.

The Building Principal may permit students without adequate documentation to attend school up to 14 calendar days while the parent/guardian furnishes the necessary documents. This time period may be extended to 30 days for students transferring from another state or country, as long as they show a good faith effort to obtain the necessary documentation.

When a child is excluded from school for immunization reasons, the Building Principal shall notify the parent/guardian of their responsibility to have the child immunized, and the public resources available for doing so. The Principal shall also notify the local health authority of the child’s name and address and the immunization(s) the child lacks, and shall cooperate with that authority to provide a time and place for the required immunization(s) to be administered.

The District will maintain a list of all students who have been exempted from immunization for medical or religious reasons, or who are in the process of receiving immunization, and shall exclude such students from school when so ordered by the Commissioner of Health, in the event of an outbreak in school of the vaccine-preventable diseases listed in Public Health Law 2164 and the first paragraph of this section.
When a student transfers out of the District, the parent/guardian will be provided with an immunization transfer record showing the student’s current immunization status which will be signed by the school nursing personnel or the school physician. A transcript or photocopy of the immunization portion of the cumulative health record will be provided to the new educational institution upon request.

**Communicable Diseases**

In order to provide all students with a safe and healthy school environment it is sometimes necessary to exclude students with contagious and infectious diseases, as defined in the Public Health Law, from attendance in school. Students will be excluded during periods of contagion for time periods in accordance with the Westchester County Department of Health guidelines.

During an outbreak of these communicable diseases, if the Commissioner of health or his/her designee so orders, the District will exclude students from school who have an exemption from immunization or who are in the process of obtaining immunization.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, working through district health personnel, to enforce this policy and to contact the New York State Department of Health and the County Board of Health when a reportable case of a communicable disease is identified in a student or staff member.

Adoption: March 15, 2016