

MEMORANDUM

August 13, 2020

Action Required-ANNUAL



Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

TO: All Principals

FROM: Ruschelle Reuben, Associate Superintendent *RR*

SUBJECT: Required Childhood Vaccinations for Preschool Programs and Schools

Summary

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has requested that the following information regarding pediatric vaccinations and frequently asked questions (FAQ) be shared with parents and guardians. Because of the stay-at-home orders to minimize the spread of COVID-19, many families postponed wellness checks with their children's healthcare providers, resulting in students not receiving vaccinations required for the 2020–2021 school year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that there has been a significant decrease in vaccinations ordered and administered by healthcare providers in April 2020 when compared to April 2019. Additional information on this trend is available in the MDH "Dear Colleague" Letter (Attachment A). To counteract this trend, MDH has contacted all healthcare providers in the state to request that they reach out to families to remind them of these vaccination requirements. Additional information on the importance of receiving childhood vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic is available in the FAQ (Attachment B).

Background

Maryland State requires students receive vaccinations on a schedule determined by the CDC in order to attend preschool programs and schools (Attachment C). Students may be exempted from these requirements if a healthcare provider states that the vaccinations are medically contraindicated or for religious objections.

- Students entering Kindergarten, or Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 must provide documentation that they have received two doses of Varicella vaccinations and two doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccinations, in addition to those they would have received between birth and age five years.
- Students entering Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 must provide documentation that they have received one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) and one dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination.

Parents/guardians may contact their healthcare provider for a copy of their children's vaccination records to verify which vaccinations have been received to date. In addition, parents/guardians can view and print their children's vaccination records at the Maryland Department of Health Center for Immunization website: <https://md.myir.net/> All healthcare providers in Maryland now are required to record vaccinations administered on ImmuNet, Maryland's secure immunization information system.

Important Dates

- **August 31, 2020:** First day of school. Students must provide documentation that they have received the required vaccinations unless parents/guardians provide documentation of an exemption. Students may enter school if they have not received their vaccinations yet, but parents/guardians can provide documentation that an appointment to receive required vaccinations has been scheduled within the next 20 days.
- **September 21, 2020:** Students who have not provided documentation of required vaccinations **must be excluded** from school until such documentation is produced.

Action Required

- Include information on your school's webpage and principal's newsletter to remind families of the required vaccinations in order to return to school in the Fall 2020.
- For incoming Grade 7 students, notify families that their children will need to provide documentation of one Tdap and one MCV4 vaccination in order to enter school.

Links to Additional Information: Attachment A, B, and C, listed above.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DsDTXoq2qyS9cyuHZ1vrp8Ccu5SGXaVN?usp=sharing>

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Janet S. Wilson".

Janet S. Wilson, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Schools