



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Commissioner*

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

42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Island City, NY 11101

August 25, 2011

Dear Principal/Director:

As the start of the 2011-2012 school year approaches I want to remind you that all students attending all New York City (NYC) schools are required to be vaccinated in compliance with New York State Public Health Law §2164. The law mandates that students be in compliance with specific immunization requirements to attend school. With your help, for the 2010-2011 school year, we reached our goal of 98.8% of public school students being in compliance.

The current 2011-2012 immunization requirements are available at <http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/scah/scah-med-req.pdf>. The changes for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows:

- The vaccine against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) will now be required for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade if they are at least 11 years old. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade requirement is new this year.
- The chicken pox (varicella) vaccine is now required for all children from pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Although only one dose is required, two doses are recommended.

Please ensure that any new staff you have who will be working on immunization compliance have received training in the Automate the Schools (ATS) immunization modules and reports. Please reach out to your Children First Network (CFN) team health liaison for support with this work.

This year, in an effort to aid schools in achieving high immunization compliance, ATS will automatically receive immunization information from the NYC Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) for all newly enrolled and sixth-grade students. This should save your staff time and lead to improved compliance with the school immunization requirements. For other students, using the CIR can help your school to obtain missing immunization records. If your school does not already have access to the CIR, please call 212-676-2323 and we can arrange access for you.

For questions regarding compliance with school immunization requirements, please call the Bureau of Immunization's Program Support Unit at 347-396-2433.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc

cc: Dr. Roger Platt, Assistant Commissioner – School Health  
Dr. Cheryl Lawrence, Medical Director – Bureau of School Health  
Despina Zaharakis- Department of Education  
CFN Health Liaisons