



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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July 21, 2014

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants
FROM: Wendy Holmes, RN, Head *WH*
Immunization Branch
SUBJECT: New and Revised Immunization Rules and Requirements

The purpose of this memo is to inform you that on May 14, 2014 the North Carolina Commission for Public Health approved new vaccine requirements and changes to existing requirements as documented in North Carolina Administrative Code 10A NCAC 41A .0401 *Dosage and Age Requirements for Immunization*. The changes were made to more closely align NC requirements with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. The new vaccine requirements and changes to previous vaccine requirements will become effective **July 1, 2015**. Documentation of a valid medical or religious exemption would exempt an individual from the requirements.

Details of the rule changes are enclosed in the updated NCAC 10A. Highlights of the new vaccine requirements and the revised requirements are listed below.

New Vaccine Requirements

- **Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)** – 4 doses by 15 months of age
 - The number of vaccine doses required depends on the age of the child when the vaccine series began.
 - No individual 5 years of age or older is required to receive PCV.
- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)** – 2 doses
 - One dose for individuals is required entering the 7th grade or by 12 years of age whichever comes first.
 - Booster dose for individuals is required entering the 12th grade or 17 years of age beginning August 1, 2020.
 - If the first dose is administered on or after the 16th birthday the booster dose is not required.

Changes to Previous Vaccine Requirements

- **Polio vaccine** – the booster (4th) dose is required on or after the 4th birthday and before entering school for the first time.
- **Varicella vaccine** – 2 doses administered at least 28 days apart
 - One dose is required on or after 12 months of age and before 19 months.
 - A second dose is required before entering school for the first time.
 - Documentation of disease must be from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant verifying history of varicella disease. Documentation must include the name of the individual with history of disease, approximate date or age of infection and a healthcare provider signature.

- **Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) – Tdap**
 - A booster dose of Tdap is required for individuals who have not previously received Tdap and who are entering 7th grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.
- **School Entry from 6th to 7th Grade**
 - Simultaneous administration of Tdap and MCV vaccines is allowed at the 11-12 year old recommendation.

Continuing to follow the ACIP recommended schedule ensures providers are vaccinating clients age-appropriately to meet the new requirements. The North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) encourages providers to run reminder/recall reports from the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) to identify clients who need vaccines to meet the requirements.

Please note: A Certificate of Immunization must be presented for children entering a public, private, or religious child care facility; kindergarten; grades seven or twelve; and college or university. An individual who is not age-appropriately vaccinated and who does not meet NC vaccine requirements shall have 30 calendar days to meet requirements or be excluded from the facility.

For additional information regarding the new vaccine requirements please contact the Immunization Branch at 919-707-5550 or via email at imminfo@dhhs.nc.gov.

Thank you for all you do to assure that all North Carolinians are age-appropriately vaccinated.

Enclosure

cc:	SMT	CO Staff	Vaccine Manufacturers	Steve Shore	RINs	RICs
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