

June 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child currently has a religious exemption for one or more vaccines that are required for child care or school attendance. As of June 13, 2019, public, private and parochial schools and child care programs in New York State and City can no longer accept requests for religious exemptions from school immunization requirements. This law applies to students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and to all child care settings.

Children attending year-round programming

Children who had a religious exemption and who attend year-round child care or public, private or parochial school, must now receive the first age-appropriate dose in each immunization series by June 28, 2019, to attend or remain in school or child care. Additionally, by July 14, 2019, parents and guardians must show that they have scheduled appointments for all required follow-up doses. Delays in vaccination or vaccine doses, and/or alternative immunization schedules are not allowed.

Children in school or child care until June 28, 2019, and returning for the 2019-20 school year

Children must receive the first dose in each immunization series within 14 days after the first day of school or enrollment in child care. Children will then need to stay on schedule with required vaccinations in order to remain in school or child care or show that they have scheduled appointments for all required follow-up doses. Delays in vaccination or vaccine doses, and/or alternative immunization schedules are not allowed.

A list of the new school immunization requirements for 2019-20 is summarized below.

All students in child care through grade 12 must meet the requirements for the following vaccines:

- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis or whooping cough)
- Poliovirus
- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Hepatitis B

Children under age 5 who are enrolled in child care and pre-kindergarten must also meet the requirements for these vaccines:

- Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)
- PCV (pneumococcal disease)
- Influenza (flu): Children must receive the flu vaccine by December 31, 2019

Children in grades 6 through 12 must also meet the requirements for these vaccines:

- Tdap booster (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis)
- MenACWY (meningococcal disease)

Please review your child's immunization history with their health care provider. Their provider can tell you whether additional doses of one or more vaccines are required for your child to attend or remain in child care or school. Visit schools.nyc.gov and search for "immunizations" for a full list of required vaccines.

If you have questions about these requirements, please contact your child care center or school's administrative office.