

August 2017

To: All New Mexico Schools, School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Principals, and School Nurses

Recently the "New Mexico Childcare/Pre-School/School Entry Immunization Requirements: 2017 - 2018 School Year" document was released. As most of you are aware, New Mexico schools are required by state law and regulations to:

- (1) Maintain records of immunizations for students;
- (2) Make those records available to the Department of Health (DOH);
- (3) Report on immunization noncompliance to DOH; and
- (4) Commence disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide either valid satisfactory evidence of immunizations or a valid exemption.

To help achieve those goals, the New Department of Health grants the Public Education Department (PED) School Health Offices the authority to serve as "public health authority." This means that PED has the limited authority to collect immunization information for school-aged children.

Resources for school health personnel to obtain immunization include:

- (1) The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS), the registry for immunization information, which grants school nurses access to immunization records;
- (2) Health care providers who give immunizations to children;
- (3) Immunization records supplied by parents; and
- (4) Immunization records from other schools.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping New Mexico's school children protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,



Lynn Gallagher  
Cabinet Secretary  
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