

August 2018

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

Recently, the "New Mexico Childcare/Pre-School/School Entry Immunization Requirements "2018 - 2019 School Year" document was released. As most of you are aware, all public and private New Mexico (NM) schools are required by state law and regulations to:

- (1) Maintain current immunization records for all students;
- (2) Make immunization records available to the NM Department of Health (NMDOH);
- (3) Report immunization compliance and noncompliance to NMDOH; and
- (4) Commence disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide either valid satisfactory evidence of immunization compliance per state law or a current and valid immunization exemption.

To assist in this effort, NMDOH grants school health offices the authority to serve as a "public health authority." This means that school nurses have limited authority to collect immunization information for school-aged children.

Resources for school health personnel to obtain immunization information include:

- (1) The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS), the registry for immunization information, which grants school nurses and school personnel with NMSIIS access to review and obtain immunization records;
- (2) Health care providers who administer immunizations to children;
- (3) A medically validated immunization record supplied by a parent or guardian; and
- (4) A valid immunization record from a school the student previously attended.

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

Sincerely,



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Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Health

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