



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women's & Children's Health Section

1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1917

Tel 919-707-5550 • Fax 919-870-4824

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Albert A. Delia, Acting Secretary

Laura Gerald, MD, MPH
State Health Director

February 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: NC School Superintendents
NC School Principals
Principals/Headmasters of Private and Religious Schools
NC School Nurses
Local Health Department Health Directors

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Resources for Educating Parents about Immunization Requirements

The purpose of this memo is to announce the availability of resources to assist principals and school nurses in educating parents and staff at your school about the immunization requirements for kindergarten and 6th grade entry.

The newest immunization requirement, which went into effect in 2008, states a booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is required for individuals attending public schools who are entering the sixth grade on or after August 1, 2008, if five or more years have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid.

Individuals not attending public schools (i.e., private, religious, home schools) who are 12 years of age on or after August 1, 2008 are also required to have a booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) vaccine, if five or more years have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid.

The rule change also impacts mumps vaccination. Individuals are now required to receive a second dose of mumps vaccine before enrolling in school for the first time. Children were previously required to have only one dose of mumps vaccine.

The Immunization Branch has developed materials including flyers, postcards, and posters that schools can use to educate parents and staff about the immunization requirements. Enclosed with this memo is an order form which your school can use to request copies of these materials. These materials are available free of charge.

In addition to the items on the order form, you can find additional resources on the Immunization Branch's website at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/schools/resourcesforschools.htm>. (Scroll down until you see the header: Tdap/Mumps Rule Change.) Available at this website, you can find the following items:

- Sample Parent Letters - for parents of rising kindergarten and 6th grade students, available in English and Spanish
- Report Card Stuffers
- Sample PTA Newsletter Article, customizable
- Sample Press Release, customizable
- Sample Web Blurb – can be posted on the school's website, customizable

The website also contains resources to educate and assist staff in enforcing the immunization requirements. These items include:

- Frequently Asked Questions flyer for school nurses
- What a Principal Needs to Know flyer
- Sample Non-Compliance Letter, available in English and Spanish, customizable
- Sample Suspension Letter, available in English and Spanish, customizable
- Sample Permission Form (for on-site immunization clinics), available in English and Spanish

Please feel free to download and print or order any items that you need. Questions regarding the vaccination requirements should be addressed to your Regional Immunization Nurse, or the Immunization Branch Central Office at 919-707-5550.

CC: SMT
Regional Immunization Staff
WCH Nursing Consultants

CO Staff
Local Health Directors
Joy Reed

Chris Minard
Gerri Mattson
Janis Ham

Jessica Gerdes
Chena Flood

