



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

ELIZABETH TILSON, MD, MPH • State Health Director

MARK BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health, Division of
Public Health

October 30, 2020

TO: NC Schools, Universities, Colleges and Child Care Facilities

FROM: Elizabeth Tilson, MD, MPH
State Health Director

RE: Extension of Temporary Suspension of Immunization and School Health Assessment
Requirements due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

This letter serves as notification to inform you of a further extension of the temporary suspension of immunization requirements specified in 10A NCAC 41A .0401 through November 30, 2020. Immunization requirements and school health assessments were originally extended through September 30, 2020 by a State Health Director letter issued on August 11, 2020 and Executive Order 156. However, a further extension is needed to facilitate additional time for families to meet the immunization and school health assessment requirements due to reported barriers resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary suspension of the immunization deadline is being issued pursuant to 10A N.C. Admin Code 41A .0401(c). Consistent with this extension of the temporary suspension:

Additional Time to Complete Immunization Under G.S. 130A-155(a) and 130A-155.1(a)

The time period for the temporary suspension, from August 11, 2020 through November 30, 2020, inclusive, will not count towards the 30 calendar days following the child's first date of school or child care facility attendance that a parent, guardian or responsible person has to submit a certificate of immunization. The requirement to submit a certificate of immunization will be reinstated on December 1, 2020 with a grace period until December 30, 2020 or 30 calendar days from the child's first day of attendance, whichever is later. This temporary suspension of time to complete immunization requirements also applies to individuals attending NC colleges and universities.

Additional Time to Complete Health Assessment Under G.S. 130A-440(a)

Pursuant to Executive Order 172, the requirements for presentation of the school health assessment for every NC child entering kindergarten or higher grade in public schools for the first time will align with the presentation of the certification of immunization. Therefore, the time period from August 11, 2020 through November 30, 2020, inclusive, will not count towards the 30 calendar days following the child's first date of school attendance that the family has to submit proof of a health assessment. The requirement to submit a school health assessment will be reinstated on December 1, 2020 with a grace period until December 30, 2020 or 30 calendar days from the child's first day of attendance, whichever is later.

Additional Time to Submit Reports Under G.S. 130A-155, 130A-155.1, and 130A-441

NCDHHS understands that the temporary suspension of these requirements may result in delayed submission of annual reports in accordance with G.S. 130A-155(c), G.S. 130A-155.1(c), and 130A-441(c). Given the situation, NCDHHS will accept submissions until February 1, 2021, pursuant to Executive Order 172.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 5605 Six Forks Road, Building 3, Raleigh, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1931 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1931
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5000 • FAX: 919-870-4829

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Although the temporary suspension may provide additional time for families to get required immunizations and health assessments for schools in communities experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage all children to obtain the needed immunizations in accordance with G.S. 130A-152 and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices as early as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the on-call nurse for the Immunization Branch at 919-707-5575 or your school nurse consultant.