

What a Principal/Headmaster Needs to Know



1. Immunization Rules Affect North Carolina's Students

New vaccine requirements and changes to previous vaccine requirements will become effective **July 1, 2015**.

On May 14, 2014 the North Carolina Commission for Public Health approved new vaccine requirements and changes to existing requirements as documented in North Carolina Administrative Code 10A NCAC 41A.0401 *Dosage and Age Requirements for Immunization*. The changes were made to more closely align NC requirements with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

New Vaccine Requirements

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) – 2 doses

- ▶ One dose is required for individuals entering the 7th grade or by 12 years of age whichever comes first.
- ▶ Booster dose is required for individuals entering the 12th grade or 17 years of age beginning August 1, 2020.
- ▶ If the first dose is administered on or after the 16th birthday the booster dose is not required.

Changes to Previous Vaccine Requirements

Polio vaccine – the booster (4th) dose is required on or after the 4th birthday and before entering school for the first time.

Varicella vaccine – 2 doses administered at least 28 days apart

- ▶ One dose is required on or after 12 months of age and before 19 months.
- ▶ A second dose is required before entering school for the first time.
- ▶ Documentation of disease must be from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant verifying history of varicella disease. Documentation must include the name of the individual with history of disease, approximate date or age of infection and a healthcare provider signature.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) – Tdap

- ▶ A booster dose of Tdap is required for individuals who have not previously received Tdap and who are entering 7th grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.

School Entry Requirement Change from 6th to 7th Grade

- ▶ Allows for simultaneous administration of Tdap and MCV vaccines at the 11-12 year old recommendation.

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