

March 2023

Revisions and Additions 2023-24

Men (ACWY)

One dose required for 7th-10th grade. A 2nd booster dose is now required for 11th grade (min. age is 16 for booster).

Hepatitis A

Two doses required for K-2nd grade.

Varicella

K-8th grade, Proof of immunity: Receipt of vaccine; titer; or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of prior disease. For **all newly diagnosed Varicella cases**, laboratory confirmation of disease is required.

Layout

For ease of use, the school requirements are now on two pages.

Refer to CDC Immunization Schedule for exceptions and questions.

School nurses with questions that are not addressed by the NM School Requirements, should consult the footnotes of the CDC childhood and adolescent immunization schedule.

To: New Mexico Public and Private School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Principals, School Nurses, and Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

Re: **New Mexico 2023-2024 School Entry Immunization Requirements**

Each year the Vaccine Advisory Group (VAG) meets to discuss New Mexico School Entry Immunization Requirements. Any changes are thoughtfully discussed and voted on by a group of appointed, experienced immunization professionals. These changes are based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annual recommendations. The VAG makes recommendations, and the Cabinet Secretary makes final decisions which the Public Health Division supervises.

The Immunization Requirements schedule incorporates changes related to the grade phasing-in process for required vaccinations. This year, the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine requirement will remain for 7th-10th grade entry. In addition, a second booster dose of MenACWY is now required for 11th grade entry or at age 16, which is the minimum age for the booster.

The two-dose Hepatitis A vaccine requirement is now rolled up to K-2nd grade.

At this time, Influenza, COVID-19 and HPV vaccines are not required for school entry but will continue to be strongly recommended as is considered best practice.

Other changes in immunization requirements for the 2023-2024 school year are otherwise minor and are listed in the column to the left.

Acceptable forms of proof of immunization status include a NMSIIS printout, printout from provider's Electronic Medical Record or immunization record card.

Note: School vaccine requirements are still in force if students are enrolled in online studies, home schooling or other adaptations due to COVID-19. Thank you for keeping New Mexico's children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.



Patrick M. Allen
 Cabinet Secretary

- *NMSA 1978, § 24-5-2 makes it unlawful for any student to enroll in school unless the student is immunized, or otherwise properly exempted.*
- *NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4, 7.5.2.8 NMAC and 6.12.2.8(F) NMAC authorize and require each school superintendent to prepare a record showing the immunization status of every child enrolled or attending a school under his or her jurisdiction.*
- *Additionally, 6.12.2.8 NMAC requires that schools start disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide satisfactory evidence of commencement or completion of immunization or an exemption from immunization.*
- *Section 6.12.2.8 NMAC and NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4 also stipulate that parents or guardians who neglect or refuse to permit their child to be immunized against diseases as required by law shall be reported by the school superintendent to the director of the public health division.*
- *Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistant Act [42 USC§ 11432(g)(3)(C)], children experiencing homelessness must be able to enroll in school immediately, even if they are unable to produce immunization records. If the child needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization records, the enrolling school must immediately refer the parent or guardian to the designated local educational agency (LEA) homeless education liaison for assistance.*

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