



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

March 3, 2009

Dear Director/Principal:

Enclosed are the vaccine requirements by age and grade level for students in school and pre-school programs for the school year 2009-2010. This summary was designed to assist you and your staff in reviewing immunization records for compliance with the State of Maryland school immunization regulations.

Please be aware there is one revision to the 2009 – 2010 immunization requirements:

- **Varicella (chickenpox) and Hepatitis B vaccines will be required for students entering preschool programs through 12th grade.**

Immunization records should be presented and reviewed no later than the beginning of the school year. Students who are not completely immunized or who have not presented their immunization record may be temporarily admitted to school. Students should be given up to 20 calendar days to get the needed record/vaccines from their health care provider. Those students needing immunizations who cannot secure an appointment with their regular health care provider may be referred to their local health department.

The most important factor in assuring compliance with school immunization regulations is to give a firm date of exclusion and to enforce it. If the missing documentation is not presented to the school by the due date, the student must be excluded the next school day (COMAR 10.06.04, section .06C), and may not return to school until records are provided to show current immunization compliance. Enclosed is a sample letter you may adopt to notify parents about their child's immunization status.

If you have any questions about school immunization requirements or enforcement of school immunization regulations, please contact your local health department or the Center for Immunization at (410) 767-6679. Also, if you would like to order DHMH Form 896 (Immunization Certificate), please call (410) 799-1940 or fax your request to (410) 799-1370.

COMAR regulations, DHMH Form 896, and other vaccine-related information are available on our website - www.EDCP.org (Immunization).

Sincerely,

Greg Reed, MPA
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Center for Immunization
Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled - Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us