

**SECTION IX:
IMMUNIZATIONS**

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NEW MEXICO IMMUNIZATION LAW

INTRODUCTION

New Mexico law requires that all students be immunized against certain communicable diseases. These requirements are determined by the NM Department of Health (NMDOH) in collaboration with the NM Vaccine Advisory Committee using recommendations from the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The State's official immunization requirements for schools and childcare facilities are released annually and can be accessed at <http://www.health.state.nm.us/immunize/Pages/Public/sched/sched.html>.

In the school setting, the school nurse is best qualified to determine which students are missing required vaccinations and subsequently notifies parents/guardians. The NM Immunization Program surveys immunization records of a cohort of school districts identified through a random selection process by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year. Each selected school is notified of its survey status early in the school year to provide adequate time to establish survey dates with selected sites.

IMMUNIZATION ASSESSMENT

- For the student who has begun the process of immunization vaccination and the process is being accomplished in accordance with the current NM immunization requirement schedules, that student meets New Mexico immunization standards and may enroll in and attend school.
- For the student who has no immunization record but was formerly enrolled in a school in the United States, a formal request for immunization records must be made by the school nurse to the previous school attended to be considered in process. The student should be re-evaluated in one month. If the student was formerly enrolled in a school in another country and has no record or any contact information to acquire records, initiation of required immunizations must begin immediately or have an appointment to do so to be considered in process. <http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title06/06.012.0002.htm>
- For the student whose immunizations are not up-to-date but who has received all immunizations currently permissible by medical practice, s/he is considered in process.
- For the student who is attempting to reach compliance but is behind on a vaccination series, s/he is no longer considered in process. A scheduled appointment to receive required immunizations can be considered in process, allowing the student to register and attend school. If proof of immunization is not presented the first school day after this appointment, disenrollment procedure can begin. When any student is kept out of school longer than five consecutive days for noncompliance, the local Regional Health Officer (RHO) for NMDOH should be notified. (<http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title07/07.005.0002.htm>)
- Children who are younger than five years of age and who attend childcare or early childhood development programs on school grounds should be in compliance with the NM required immunization schedule for childcare centers.

NEW MEXICO ADMINISTRATIVE CODES

TITLE 7 HEALTH
CHAPTER 5 VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATIONS
PART 2 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

<http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title07/07.005.0002.htm>

TITLE 6 PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
CHAPTER 12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY
PART 2 HEALTH – IMMUNIZATIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

<http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title06/06.012.0002.htm>

NEW MEXICO STATUTES ANNOTATED

CHAPTER 24 HEALTH AND SAFETY
ARTICLE 5 IMMUNIZATION

<http://www.conwaygreene.com/nmsu/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&2.0>

SECTION 1 Immunization Regulations

SECTION 2 Unlawful to enroll in school unimmunized; unlawful to refuse to permit immunization

SECTION 3 Exemption from immunization

SECTION 4 Superintendent; duty to report

SECTION 5 Who may immunize; who must pay

SECTION 6 Penalty

SECTION 7 Immunization registry; creation

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EXEMPTIONS FROM IMMUNIZATION

INTRODUCTION

A student in New Mexico may be exempt from NM Public Education Department (PED) immunization requirements to register and attend school upon providing to the school a CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL/DAYCARE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFICATION OF RELIGIOUS/CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

- Exemption forms must be down-loaded from the New Mexico Immunization Program's web site. http://www.immunizenm.org/documents/Exemption_new.pdf
- The form must be completed then signed in the presence of a Notary Public and notarized.
- IT IS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE AN APPROVED COPY OF THIS EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE IS FILED WITH THE CHILD'S SCHOOL.
- In accordance with 7.5.3.8B NMAC, parent certifies that my religious beliefs, held either individually or jointly by others, do not permit the administration of vaccine or other immunizing agents and I therefore request that my child as named above be exempted from the school immunization requirements of NMSA 1978 Section 24-5-2.
- Parent must UNDERSTAND THIS REQUEST IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. I HAVE READ THE 'COMPULSORY IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS' AND UNDERSTAND THE RISK OF NON-IMMUNIZATION FOR MY CHILD.
- Parent must UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CERTIFICATE, IF APPROVED, IS VALID FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED NINE MONTHS AND WILL EXPIRE THEREAFTER. IF I WISH TO REQUEST ANOTHER EXEMPTION AFTER THE NINE MONTH PERIOD, I MUST COMPLETE ANOTHER CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION AND SEEK APPROVAL.
- Parent must also UNDERSTAND THAT WHERE ANY CASE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OCCURS OR IS LIKELY TO OCCUR IN MY CHILD'S SCHOOL, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAY REQUIRE THE EXCLUSION OF INFECTED PERSONS AND NON-IMMUNIZED PERSONS (7.4.3.9 NMAC - Rp, 7 NMAC 4.3.9, 8/15/2003).

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY BASED IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

INTRODUCTION

School nurses may be involved in assisting with or coordinating on-site school and community based immunization activities. Partnering in these activities usually occurs between the school nurse and the Public Health Office at the local level as well as with the Immunization Program at the state level. Schools may choose to become independent Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers and obtain vaccine for their school-based immunization clinics directly from the VFC supplier. Information on becoming a VFC provider can be obtained from the NM Immunization Program web site at <http://www.immunizenm.org/Provider/vacchild.shtml>

PHYSICIAN COVERAGE AND STANDING ORDERS

School and community-based immunization projects supported by the NM DOH Immunization Program are considered Public Health clinics. As such, it is **not** required that a licensed physician be on the premises when immunizations are being administered. This clarification was issued by the NM Secretary of Health and DOH Chief Medical Officer in 1996. However, it is required that school VFC providers adhere to NM DOH Vaccine Protocol.

<http://www.immunizenm.org/Provider/provider.shtml> It is also wise for the school nurse to notify the local public health office, Regional Health Officer (RHO) or School Health Advocate when engaging in any school based immunization clinic activities.

See Section XV of this manual for the standing order for immunization administration issued by the RHOs of the five Public Health Regions in New Mexico.

http://www.nmschoolhealthmanual.org/shm_15.pdf

IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION

A School Immunization - Consent Form

<http://www.immunizenm.org/provider/vfcforms.shtml>

Is downloadable on the NM Immunization Program for school nurses whose districts are VFC providers. This form can be used to obtain consent with one signature for multiple vaccines as well as provide documentation of vaccines administered. It may also be used to obtain information required for identifying and establishing immunization records in the NM Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS). The form may be processed as follows for documentation purposes:

- For immunizations administered at any VFC clinic, staff trained in the use of NMSIIS is responsible for entering the information for vaccinations administered into the NMSIIS registry.
- The signed consent form can be held as part of the school health record.

IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES AND CONSENT FORMS

NM School Immunization Requirements (K-12)

NM Immunization Requirements for Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools

<http://www.immunizenm.org/sched.shtml>

Recommended Childhood & Adolescent Immunization Schedule--United States

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>

Summary of Recommendations for Childhood & Adolescent Immunizations

<http://www.immunize.org/>

Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunizations

<http://www.immunize.org/>

School Immunization - Consent Form (English and Spanish)

<http://www.immunizenm.org/provider/vfcforms.shtml>

VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENTS (VIS)

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>

(English and Spanish)

DPT

DTaP

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Hib

Influenza – Live Intranasal

Influenza - Inactivated

MMR

Meningococcal

Pneumococcal

Polio

Td

Tdap

Varicella

FOREIGN LANGUAGE VACCINE-RELATED TERMS

Interpreting Immunization records from Mexico

<http://www.immunizenm.org/Provider/documents/NMIMMBiNationalGuide-2008.pdf>

Interpreting immunization records from other countries refer to the *Pink Book* at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/textbks-manuals-guides.htm>

PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR SCHOOL HEALTH OFFICES

See <http://www.nmschoolhealthmanual.org/resources/forms.htm>, Section II of the School Health Manual, for the letter from NM Secretary of Health granting school health offices public health authorization in the exchange of immunization information.