

September 14, 2022

Dear Pediatric Care Provider,

This fall, schools in the District of Columbia will be enforcing the Immunization Attendance Policy, also known as No Shots, No School—which requires that students be up to date on their immunizations to attend school. Students who are not up to date after a 20-school day period risk being excluded from school until they obtain the necessary immunizations (DC Official Code § 38–505). According to current estimates, as many as 31,000 students in the District may not be up to date on immunizations. We are asking for your help to vaccinate these children so that they can stay in school.

Required School Vaccines

In the District of Columbia, school-required vaccines follow the ACIP schedule—you can reference these requirements [here](#). Starting SY22-23, the COVID-19 vaccine will also be required for all students who are of an age for which there is a COVID-19 vaccination fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Currently, this applies to students 12 years of age and older—should a COVID-19 vaccine receive full FDA authorization during the school year (or a student turns 12 during the school year), students will have 70 days to get up to date (D.C. Law 24-85).

What can you do to help?

- **Report data to DOCIIS**—If your health center does not currently report immunizations electronically to the District of Columbia Immunization Information System (DOCIIS) or you believe there is an error with reporting—please reach out to enroll/troubleshoot: dociis.helpdesk@dc.gov
- **Send Reminder-Recalls**—We recommend that all providers use DOCIIS or your EHRs to identify children due immunizations and send reminders to their families.
- **Offer Vaccine-Only Visits, Vaccines at all visits**—vaccine-only visits (with a follow up Wellness Visit scheduled) help to keep kids healthy and in school and are a service valued by many families. Also, when a child is in the office for any other reason this is an opportunity to immunize.
- **Streamline Universal Health Certificate completion**—this form is critical in the school enrollment process and serves to verify a child’s immunizations if for some reason this information is unavailable electronically. Please revisit your workflows to ensure these forms are completed, that a copy is given to families for submission to school, and that an electronic copy is retained in their chart. This year, the form has been updated with COVID-19 vaccine. If a child is up to date, please ensure there is a process to provide a UHC that has been completed within the last 12 months with the up-to-date vaccine record.
- **Remind families about Exemptions** – Religious exemptions and HPV opt-outs expire July 1st each year, thus if a family is planning on these, please remind them they will need to renew annually. Forms and guidance can be found [here](#).

What DC Health is Doing

- **Outreach & Awareness Raising**
 - This includes live caller and robocall outreach to families of children who are non-compliant on immunizations, generic and personalized mailers, and our annual Well Child communication campaign. DC Health is also working with other government partners and community stakeholders to reach families through other channels such as community-based organizations and advisory neighborhood commissions.
- **Facilitated Access**
 - Vaccine-only visits in primary care—we are working with District pediatric providers to financially support vaccine only visits. If you are a VFC provider and would like to offer vaccine only visits, but need support—please reach out to doh.immunizations@dc.gov
 - Targeted School-Located Mobile Vaccination—these are by appointment with some walk-up capacity and targeted to schools with the highest number of students non-compliant—families can register their child for an event at a nearby school by visiting: www.bit.ly/DCHealthMobileUnit
 - Vaccine Exchange—community-based organizations, schools, and other stakeholders can request mobile vaccination events at <https://request.vaccineexchange.dc.gov/>
 - Mass Vaccination—starting in October, during the school exclusion period, DC Health has procured services for four mass vaccination sites capable of immunizing an average of 500 students per day.

Thank you for doing your part to ensure our city's youngest residents are fully protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

For any questions about the activities mentioned above, contact DC Health Immunization Division at doh.immunization@dc.gov or 202-576-7130.

Warmest Regards,



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