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Phone: (716) 754-4470 Fax: (716) 754-0167

Rev. Thomas Maloney, Pastor  
Maureen Ingham, Principal

July 29, 2019

Dear Parents of St. Peter RC School,

I hope you are all enjoying a relaxing and fun summer. We have been very busy at school getting ready for another great year at SPS.

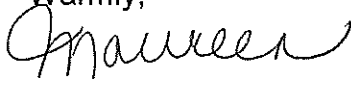
This letter is coming to you, along with a copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Buffalo informing all of us that the New York State Legislature has "removed the religious exemption for mandatory vaccination of children attending day cares and schools through New York State."

The additional print material enclosed gives further explanation for this decision and the requirements.

Thank you for understanding this decision as a serious safety precaution for all children.

Please feel free to call the office at 754-4470 or email me directly – [mingham@stpeterrc.org](mailto:mingham@stpeterrc.org) – if you have any questions.

God bless all our children.

Warmly,  
  
Maureen

P.S. Please note that "exemptions related to medical concerns for children are still determined by a child's physician and must be documented.



June 17, 2019

Dear Catholic School Parents & Guardians:

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation removing the religious exemption for mandatory vaccination of children attending daycares and schools throughout New York State. While the state government cannot enforce mandatory vaccination of children it can exclude those children from attendance in daycares and schools.

The Catholic Church has no religious tenet to support a claim of religious exemption from vaccinations. We recognize however, that there are families within our schools who may belong to other religious faiths that do. Regardless, in the interest of safety for all of our students, the Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Buffalo will comply with the new state law and not register any child who has not received the proper vaccinations to attend school.

\* The new law pertains to non-medical exemptions. Exemptions related to medical concerns for children are still determined by a child's physician.

As of today, the religious exemption is no longer permissible and children not vaccinated have 30 days to begin to acquire their vaccinations. If your child is not vaccinated and you hope to register them in a summer program at your school you must demonstrate, within the 30 day timeframe that your child has obtained at least the first dose for every required series of vaccinations and has scheduled appointments to obtain remaining doses thereafter.

We know that for those who hold strong religious beliefs against vaccinations that this new law will be troubling to you. Please know that we respect your feelings, but we must follow the law and continue to insure the safety of all students attending Catholic elementary schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. LaFever".

Dr. Michael C. LaFever  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

# 2019-20 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance<sup>1</sup>

**NOTES:**

Children in a prekindergarten setting should be age-appropriately immunized. The number of doses depends on the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). For grades pre-k through 11, intervals between doses of vaccine should be in accordance with the ACIP-recommended immunization schedule for persons 0 through 18 years of age. Doses received before the minimum age or intervals are not valid and do not count toward the number of doses listed below. Intervals between doses of vaccine DO NOT need to be reviewed for grade 12 except for interval between measles vaccine doses. See footnotes for specific information for each vaccine. Children who are enrolling in grade-less classes should meet the immunization requirements of the grades for which they are age equivalent.

Dose requirements **MUST** be read with the footnotes of this schedule.

Vaccines	Prekindergarten (Day Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-k)	Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	Grade 12
Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap/Td) <sup>2</sup>	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses If the 4th dose was received at 4 years or older or 3 doses If 7 years or older and the series was started at 1 year or older	3 doses	
Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine booster (Tdap) <sup>3</sup>	Not applicable		1 dose	
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) <sup>4</sup>	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older	3 doses
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) <sup>5</sup>	1 dose	2 doses		
Hepatitis B vaccine <sup>6</sup>	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses or 2 doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) for children who received the doses at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 through 15 years	
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine <sup>7</sup>	1 dose	2 doses		1 dose
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) <sup>8</sup>	Not applicable		Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10: 1 dose	2 doses or 1 dose if the dose was received at 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib) <sup>9</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) <sup>10</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		

1. Demonstrated serologic evidence of measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella or polio (for all three serotypes) antibodies is acceptable proof of immunity to these diseases. Diagnosis by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner that a child has had varicella disease is acceptable proof of immunity to varicella.
2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a 5-dose series of DTaP vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and at 15 through 18 months and at 4 years or older. The fourth dose may be received as early as age 12 months, provided at least 6 months have elapsed since the third dose. However, the fourth dose of DTaP need not be repeated if it was administered at least 4 months after the third dose of DTaP. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday.
  - b. If the fourth dose of DTaP was administered at 4 years or older, the fifth (booster) dose of DTaP vaccine is not required.
  - c. For children born before 1/1/2005, only immunity to diphtheria is required and doses of DT and Td can meet this requirement.
  - d. Children 7 years and older who are not fully immunized with the childhood DTaP vaccine series should receive Tdap vaccine as the first dose in the catch-up series; if additional doses are needed, use Td vaccine. If the first dose was received before their first birthday, then 4 doses are required, as long as the final dose was received at 4 years or older. If the first dose was received on or after the first birthday, then 3 doses are required, as long as the final dose was received at 4 years or older. A Tdap vaccine (or incorrectly administered DTaP vaccine) received at 7 years or older will meet the 6th grade Tdap requirement.
3. Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. (Minimum age: 7 years)
  - a. Students 11 years or older entering grades 6 through 12 are required to have one dose of Tdap. A dose received at 7 years or older will meet this requirement.
  - b. Students who are 10 years old in grade 6 and who have not yet received a Tdap vaccine are in compliance until they turn 11 years old.
4. Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) or oral polio vaccine (OPV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a series of IPV at 2 months, 4 months and at 6 through 18 months, and at 4 years or older. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
  - b. For students who received their fourth dose before age 4 and prior to August 7, 2010, 4 doses separated by at least 4 weeks is sufficient.
  - c. If the third dose of polio vaccine was received at 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose, the fourth dose of polio vaccine is not required.
  - d. Intervals between the doses of polio vaccine do not need to be reviewed for grade 12 in the 2019-20 school year.
  - e. If both OPV and IPV were administered as part of a series, the total number of doses and intervals between doses is the same as that recommended for the U.S. IPV schedule. If only OPV was administered, and all doses were given before age 4 years, 1 dose of IPV should be given at 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the last OPV dose.
5. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
  - a. The first dose of MMR vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must have been received at least 28 days (4 weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
  - b. Measles: One dose is required for prekindergarten. Two doses are required for grades kindergarten through 12.
  - c. Mumps: One dose is required for prekindergarten and grade 12. Two doses are required for grades kindergarten through 11.
  - d. Rubella: At least one dose is required for all grades (prekindergarten through 12).
6. Hepatitis B vaccine
  - a. Dose 1 may be given at birth or anytime thereafter. Dose 2 must be given at least 4 weeks (28 days) after dose 1. Dose 3 must be at least 8 weeks after dose 2 AND at least 16 weeks after dose 1 AND no earlier than age 24 weeks.
  - b. Two doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) received at least 4 months apart at age 11 through 15 years will meet the requirement.
7. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
  - a. The first dose of varicella vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must have been received at least 28 days (4 weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
  - b. For children younger than 13 years, the recommended minimum interval between doses is 3 months (if the second dose was administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose, it can be accepted as valid); for persons 13 years and older, the minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks.
8. Meningococcal conjugate ACWY vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra or Menveo) is required for students entering grades 7, 8, 9 and 10.
  - b. For students in grade 12, if the first dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine was received at 16 years or older, the second (booster) dose is not required.
  - c. The second dose must have been received at 16 years or older. The minimum interval between doses is 8 weeks.
9. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive Hib vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and at 12 through 15 months. Children older than 15 months must get caught up according to the ACIP catch-up schedule. The final dose must be received on or after 12 months.
  - b. If 2 doses of vaccine were received before age 12 months, only 3 doses are required with dose 3 at 12 through 15 months and at least 8 weeks after dose 2.
  - c. If dose 1 was received at age 12 through 14 months, only 2 doses are required with dose 2 at least 8 weeks after dose 1.
  - d. If dose 1 was received at 15 months or older, only 1 dose is required.
  - e. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years or older.
10. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive PCV vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and at 12 through 15 months. Children older than 15 months must get caught up according to the ACIP catch-up schedule. The final dose must be received on or after 12 months.
  - b. Unvaccinated children ages 7 through 11 months of age are required to receive 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart, followed by a third dose at 12 through 15 months.
  - c. Unvaccinated children ages 12 through 23 months are required to receive 2 doses of vaccine at least 8 weeks apart.
  - d. If one dose of vaccine was received at 24 months or older, no further doses are required.
  - e. For further information, refer to the PCV chart available in the School Survey Instruction Booklet at: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools)

For further information, contact:

New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Immunization  
Room 649, Corning Tower ESP  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 473-4437

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Program Support Unit, Bureau of Immunization,  
42-09 28th Street, 5th floor  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(347) 396-2433



**Department  
of Health**

**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

**State Education  
Department**

June 14, 2019

**Statement on Legislation Removing Non-Medical Exemption  
from School Vaccination Requirements**

On June 13, 2019, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation removing non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements for children. The United States is currently experiencing the worst outbreak of measles in more than 25 years, with outbreaks in pockets of New York primarily driving the crisis. As a result of non-medical vaccination exemptions, many communities across New York have unacceptably low rates of vaccination, and those unvaccinated children can often attend school where they may spread the disease to other unvaccinated students, some of whom cannot receive vaccines due to medical conditions. This new law will help protect the public amid this ongoing outbreak.

**What did the new law do?**

As of June 13, 2019, there is no longer a religious exemption to the requirement that children be vaccinated against measles and other diseases to attend either:

- public, private or parochial school (for students in pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade), or
- child day care settings.

**For those children who had a religious exemption to vaccination, what are the deadlines for being vaccinated?**

Children who are attending child day care or public, private or parochial school, and who had a religious exemption to required immunizations, must now receive the first age appropriate dose in each immunization series by June 28, 2019 to attend or remain in school or child day care. Also, by July 14, 2019 parents and guardians of such children must show that they have made appointments for all required follow-up doses. The deadlines for follow-up doses depend on the vaccine. The New York State Department of Health follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices catch-up immunization schedule and expects children to receive required doses consistent with Table 2 at the following link in order to continue to attend school or child day care: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>

**What is the deadline for first dose vaccinations if my child is not attending school until September?**

Parents and guardians of all children who do not have their required immunizations are encouraged to have them receive the first dose as soon as possible. The deadline for obtaining first dose vaccinations for children attending school in the fall is 14 days from the first day of school. Within 30 days of the first day of school, parents and guardians of such children must show that they have made appointments for all required follow-up doses.

Additional information will be forthcoming.