

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Headmasters
FROM: Harry Chen, M.D., Commissioner, Department of Health
Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary, Agency of Education
SUBJECT: Compliance with Vermont's Immunization Regulations
DATE: November 3, 2015

The importance of children being fully vaccinated was highlighted with last year's measles outbreak on the west coast. There is growing unease in Vermont over the increased number of students who have not received immunizations necessary for school enrollment.

The Health Department requires that all schools collect and assess student immunization records, annually report overall immunization data, and follow up with students who do not meet immunization requirements. Students who do not meet requirements must either be admitted provisionally, or have a signed exemption on file.

According to Vermont immunization law, all provisionally admitted students must be fully immunized within six months following enrollment, or submit a signed exemption form. Parents of students who are not in compliance with the requirements must receive a "notice of exclusion" letter that will inform them of the steps needed to comply with the law. This letter can be found here: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/documents/ExclusionNoticeForm.pdf>.

As the recent outbreaks of measles and pertussis have demonstrated, we need to work together to protect the community. If you have provisionally admitted students, follow up to assure compliance with the requirements. For those who do not respond to your request, send out the notice of exclusion letters to parents within six months. Encourage parents to have their children immunized. Please let the Health Department know how they can further assist you to meet these important school regulations.

For more information and links to official forms, go to the immunization web page for school entry: <http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/schoolentry.aspx>. If you have questions, please call the Immunization Program at 802-863-7638 or 800-640-4374.