What Local Public Health Providers Should Know about School Immunization Requirements and Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs)

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Best Practices for Local Public Health
Informing families that VPD exclusions will occur
Specific Vaccine Preventable Diseases with exclusions
FAQ's
Resources
Contact Information for Regional Public Health Nurses
Ruth Mori and Phyllis Schilp have been asked to disclose any relevant financial relationships with ACCME-defined commercial entities that are either providing financial support for this program or whose products or services are mentioned during this presentation.

Ruth and Phyllis have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Ruth and/or Phyllis may discuss the use of vaccines in a manner not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but in accordance with ACIP recommendations.
Public Health and School Nurse relationships/collaboration

- Collaboration between Public Health Nurse (PHN) and School Nurse Leaders/School Building Nurses is essential regarding immunization and communicable disease issues.
- Request to host/attend school nurse meeting to initiate/continue relationships.
- Collaborate around other areas such as CPR and Stop the Bleed trainings.
- Support School Nurses with vaccine preventable disease (VPD) follow-up.

PHN as an educational resource for School Nurses

- MDPH School Immunization Requirement - [105 CMR 220.00 Immunization of Students Before Admission to School](#).
- Recommend consults with immunization exemption families for VPD exclusions.
- Utilization of [MDPH MAVEN Help Section](#) around VPD information and Fact Sheets.
- School Health Manual Resource available through MDPH MAVEN Help Section.
- Policy around the yearly recommendation to obtain Religious Exemption documentation from parents and/or its enforcement may differ depending on community.
Local Public Health to reduce community gaps

- Identify immunization gap.
- Utilize school vaccine coverage rates.
  - 7th grade Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine
  - Kindergartners without 2nd MMR/Varicella

Discussions to have with School Nurses

- Importance of Herd Immunity within buildings.
- Where to send students for vaccinations?
  - Health department if have or able to have vaccine transferred
  - Able to send student/family to another community or region
  - Community Health Center (CHC)
  - School based health center
  - School Physician
School-aged Refugee information

• Often do not have immunization documentation with them.
• Have School Nurses work with School Physician as a potential vaccination option.
• Collaborate with Community Health Centers.
• Interpreting Records: use resources from the Pink Book for US and Foreign language terms chart, CDC guide for Newly arrived refugee guidance, and CHOP Guide Foreign Immunization Records.

Division of Global Populations & Infectious Disease Prevention

• Health Assessment Program
• Interpreter services
• Work for families to get immunizations
• Refer to Community Health Centers
• Refugee health information for health care and public health professionals | Mass.gov
## Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in a School Setting

**See [105 CMR 300.000](#) for the complete Isolation and Quarantine Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Case and Symptomatic Contacts</th>
<th>Asymptomatic Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measles</strong></td>
<td>Exclude student/staff through 4 days after onset of rash. (Count the day of rash onset as day zero.)</td>
<td>If one case: exclude susceptibles from work or classes from the 5th through the 21st day after their exposure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Born before 1957 consider immune</strong></td>
<td>Susceptible: Not fully vaccinated or no documented immunity</td>
<td>If multiple cases or continuous (two or more days) exposure: exclude susceptibles through the 21st day after rash onset in the last case. These restrictions remain even if the contact received immune globulin (IG).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mumps</strong></td>
<td>Exclude student/staff through 5 days after onset of gland swelling. (Count the initial day of gland swelling as day zero.)</td>
<td>If one case: exclude susceptibles from work or classes from the 12th through the 25th day after their exposure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Born before 1957 consider immune</strong></td>
<td>Susceptible: Not fully vaccinated or no documented immunity</td>
<td>If multiple cases: exclude susceptibles through the 25th day after the onset of the last case at the school or workplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rubella</strong></td>
<td>Exclude student/staff through 7 days after rash onset. (Count the day of rash onset as day zero.)</td>
<td>If one case: exclude susceptibles from work or classes from the 7th through the 23rd day after last exposure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Born before 1957 consider immune</strong></td>
<td>Susceptible: Not fully vaccinated or no documented immunity</td>
<td>If multiple cases: exclude susceptibles through the 23rd day after the onset of the last case at the school or workplace.</td>
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<td><strong>Pertussis</strong></td>
<td>Exclude student/staff until 21 days from onset of cough or 5 days after initiation of appropriate antibiotic therapy.</td>
<td>If a susceptible exposed within the last 21 days, receives antibiotic prophylaxis, then no exclusion is required in the school setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susceptible</td>
<td>Susceptibles shall be excluded from work or classes from the 8th through the 21st day after their exposure to the case while infectious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All those exposed, regardless of their age, immunization status, or past history of the disease.</td>
<td>If the exposure was continuous, susceptibles shall be excluded from the 8th through the 21st day after the case’s rash onset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Varicella</strong></td>
<td>If vesicles are present, exclude until all lesions have dried and crusted over, or until no new lesions appear, usually by the 5th day after rash onset. (Count the day of rash onset as day zero.)</td>
<td><strong>Born before 1980 consider immune</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If no vesicles are present, exclude until the lesions have faded (i.e., the skin lesions are in the process of resolving; lesions do not need to be completely resolved) or no new lesions appear within a 24-hour period, whichever is later.</td>
<td><strong>Susceptible</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not fully vaccinated or no documented immunity.</td>
<td>Health Care provider Diagnosis of Varicella or Varification of the History of the disease.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Can Boards of Health vaccinate children?
- This is a local decision made within your community.
- Obtain Immunization Standing Orders that are signed by Medical Provider.
- Emergency Treatment Standing Orders.

Where can people without insurance go for vaccines?
- Local Health is a great option.
- Do you provide vaccines at your site? Flu only site or all VFC vaccines?
- To provide all vaccines follow up with MDPH Vaccine Unit.
- Collaborate with neighboring local public health offices, your region, or Community Health Centers (CHC).

Do schools accept those with religious exemptions?
- This is an accepted exemption. Schools should discuss the potential for student exclusion if VPD occurs within community.
Polio vaccine questions
Progress Toward Polio Eradication — Worldwide, January 2020–April 2022 | MMWR (cdc.gov)

- Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV) has been used in US since 2000.
- Oral Poliovirus Vaccine (OPV) no longer licensed in US but used in other countries. Typically accepted as valid doses if intervals similar to what the US accepts.
  - Should be Trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (tOPV) on student's health record.
  - Doses of OPV administered before April 1, 2016 should be counted unless documented as part of a vaccination campaign (mOPV and bOPV invalid).
  - Doses of OPV administered on or after April 1, 2016 should not be counted.
- CDC recommends all children receive 4 doses of IPV with 4th dose at age 4-6 years either before or at school entry. Ages 2+4mo, 6-18mo, 4-6yrs
- 4th dose of IPV not required if 3rd dose administered > age 4 and is > 6mos after previous dose.
Is there a vaccine grace period?

- Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before minimal interval age are considered valid.
- Important that the vaccine grace period is not used as a scheduling tool for next dose.
What to do with international students?
- MA Vaccine Requirements apply to all students including individuals from another country attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of an academic visitation or exchange program even if over 18 years of age.
- Students over the age of 18 do not have access to Vaccine for Children (VFC) program.
- Immunization documentation should be available or may need to consider unvaccinated otherwise.

What to remember with live vaccines?
- Doses between live vaccines must be separated by 28 days. Live vaccines may be given on same day.
  - NOTE: The 4-day "grace period" should not be applied to the 28-day minimum interval between two doses of a live parenteral vaccine.
- US live vaccines include MMR, Rotavirus, Varicella, Yellow Fever.
Resources Used by the Immunization Nurses

Immunization Schedules [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html]
- Vaccine Catch-Up Guidance Job Aids [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html]
- CDC Best Practices [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/timing.html]

Travelers’ Information [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-vaccines]
- CDC Pink Book Foreign Disease Language terms [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/appndx/appdx-b.html]
- Table of US and Foreign Vaccines [https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p5122.pdf]

Immunize.org FKA Immunization Action Coalition [https://immunize.org/]
- IZ Express (subscribe) [https://immunize.org/subscribe/]
- Ask the Experts [https://immunize.org/askexperts/]

Massachusetts
- School Immunization Requirements [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations#school-and-camp-requirements-]
- Immunization Exemptions and VPD Exclusions in School Settings Vaccine Preventable Disease Exclusion Guidelines in School Settings (DOCX) [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations]
Thank You!

For More Specific Questions regarding immunizations, please reach out to your MDPH Regional Immunization Nurse.

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