



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR


ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2023

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Elizabeth Hertel, Director ^{EH}
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D. 
State Superintendent, Michigan Department of Education

SUBJECT: 2023 Immunization Requirements for Students Entering Kindergarten and 7th Grade, or Enrolling in a New School District in Grades 1-12

Immunizations are one of the most effective and scientifically proven measures to protect children from harmful diseases and death. Since 1978, Michigan law has required that each student have an up-to-date certificate of immunization at the time of registration (or no later than the first day of school) for entry into kindergarten and 7th grade, and for enrollment into a new school district, grades 1-12.

Michigan schools are required to report immunization information regardless of their mode of instruction. Any student who fails to meet the below mentioned immunization requirements shall not be admitted or participate in school classes.

For a student to attend school in Michigan, the Michigan Public Health Code requires a parent/legal guardian to have one of the following on file with the school:

1. A valid, up-to-date immunization record.
[Note: *Provisional Status Vaccines*. In the event the child has received at least one dose of a required vaccine and the next dose is not yet due, the school is required to follow-up with the parent/legal guardian to ensure the student has received the required follow-up dose(s) of the vaccine and is up to date for all other required vaccines].
2. A medical doctor's (MD/DO) signed State of Michigan 2023 Medical Contraindication Form, which states the medical contraindication(s), the vaccines involved, and the time during which the student is not able to get the vaccines.
3. A current, certified State of Michigan 2023 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver.

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[Note: When a parent or legal guardian holds a religious or other objection that prevents a student from receiving vaccines, a 2023 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver is required to be completed, signed, and certified at the local health department (LHD). The LHD will provide education from a health professional on the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits/potential risks (risks consisting mostly of moderate side effects) of vaccination. Health professionals will address questions and concerns prior to signing the current State of Michigan 2023 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver].

Proper maintenance of up-to-date immunization records, including waivers, is required to be on file for all students. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or the LHD may conduct an audit in the event of an outbreak and/or non-compliance.

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry/School Information Reporting System (MCIR/SIRS) links immunization records contained within MCIR for students entered on the MCIR/SIRS school roster. All enrolled students in kindergarten and 7th grade and any students newly enrolled to a school district can be placed on the roster to meet school immunization reporting requirements. Consent is required to enter data into MCIR/SIRS or to share MCIR data maintained by the school.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) "Consent Form for Disclosure" template can be modified to include your school information. The FERPA "Consent Form for Disclosure" template and additional guidance on immunization reporting can be found at www.mcir.org, under School & Childcare, Reporting to the Health Department.

Once the FERPA "Consent Form for Disclosure" is signed and returned to the attending school, data can be added to MCIR/SIRS in compliance with FERPA regulations. Without a "Consent Form for Disclosure," the school cannot enter immunization data into the MCIR/SIRS. Data include immunization records and waivers.

If a student is 18 years old or older, they may provide their own "Consent Form for Disclosure" of information from their education records.

If FERPA "Consent Form for Disclosure" has not been received or is not on file for a student:

1. Check the "No FERPA" consent box in MCIR/SIRS.
2. Viewing existing provider-entered immunization information in the MCIR/SIRS system does not violate FERPA, and children can remain on the school roster. Schools must be compliant with FERPA if the immunization data in MCIR becomes part of the school record or shared in any way.

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3. Do not enter any additional immunization data into MCIR/SIRS.
 - a. Examples of students who would not have provider-entered immunization data entered into MCIR:
 - Foreign exchange student
 - A child born outside of Michigan
 - b. These examples would need a FERPA consent on file to enter any immunization data into MCIR.
4. Report additional immunization data to the LHD using the School Aggregate Reporting Form. To protect student privacy, this form should only contain aggregate non-identifiable information for students who do not have a consent on file.
 - a. Students who are reported on the “School Aggregate Reporting Form” must be removed from the MCIR/SIRS roster, so they are not reported twice.

The completed “School Aggregate Reporting Form” must be submitted to the LHD each November and February when the MCIR/SIRS report is completed. The LHD will add aggregate data following school closure, which impacts the school’s Immunization Program (IP) Status percentage.

Districts should contact their LHD for other means of school immunization reporting if MCIR/SIRS is not available.

To obtain technical assistance, or to enroll as a MCIR/SIRS user, please reach out to your LHD contacts or the MCIR Helpdesk at 1-888-243-6652. Please see the enclosed handout, “School and Childcare Immunization and Resources,” for additional guidance about school immunization reporting.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance in ensuring Michigan’s children are properly immunized to avoid the ongoing threat of illness associated with vaccine-preventable diseases.

Immunization guidance documents can be accessed by visiting the Reporting to the Health Department page on www.mcir.org.

Thank you.

EH:jj

Enclosures

- c. Michigan Local Health Departments
Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments