Implementation of Revised School Immunization Requirements and Impact on Immunization Coverage in New York State
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NYS School Immunization Requirements Prior to Regulatory Change

Revised Immunization Requirements

- Numbers of doses and intervals between doses must be consistent with the ACIP recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedule
  - Effective July 1, 2014 for all grades and all required vaccines, except for polo and varicella
- 7-year roll-out of polo and varicella vaccine requirements
  - School year 2014 – 2015 (Year 1): K, 6
  - School year 2015 – 2016 (Year 2): K, 1, 6, 7
  - etc...
  - School year 2020 – 2021 (Year 7): K – 12
New Definition of “In Process”

- Children who are not fully immunized can only continue to attend school if they
  1. Have received at least the first dose in each required immunization series and
  2. Have age-appropriate appointments to complete the immunization series according to the ACIP catch-up schedule or to obtain serologic tests of immunity against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B or polio
  3. If serologic tests of immunity are negative, then the children must be immunized within 30 days.

New Requirements for Medical Exemptions

- Must contain sufficient information to identify a medical contraindication to specific immunization(s)
- Must specify length of time the immunization(s) are contraindicated
- Must be reissued annually
- Standardized NYSDOH medical exemption form developed
Revised Provisions for Exclusion During an Outbreak

• Children who have either medical or religious exemptions or who are in the process of receiving required immunizations may be excluded from school during an outbreak of any disease prevented by required vaccines

• Prior to the regulatory changes, the Commissioner had only been authorized to exclude students without documentation of immunity in the event of diphtheria, polio, measles, rubella, and mumps outbreaks

Selected Kindergarten Vaccine Coverage, NYS, 2013-14 vs. 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>MMR</th>
<th>DTaP</th>
<th>Varicella</th>
<th>Exemptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>4+ doses</td>
<td>1 dose</td>
<td>2 doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Varicella Vaccine Coverage in NYSIIS

- Among children aged 5 years 0 days through 5 years 364 days on December 1 of each year

Lessons Learned

• ACIP age-based recommendations do not map well to grade-based school requirements
  - ACIP recommends final doses of MMR, DTaP and polio vaccines at 4 – 6 years of age
  - NYS was unable to require children to receive the final doses until they were 7 years of age
• Interval requirement difficult to implement, particularly for older students who had been vaccinated several years prior
Implementation Experience

- Use of immunization registries to review vaccine histories was critical to determine if doses and intervals were consistent with ACIP recommendations
  - ↑ use of NYSIIS by school nurses and other school personnel
- ↑ in complexity of requirements → ↑ in need for guidance and technical assistance
  - High volume of calls and emails, often exceeding the NYSDOH's resources to respond to them in a timely manner
  - Several guidance documents developed
  - Multiple updates, clarifications, and FAQs

New Revised Immunization Regulations – Effective September 1, 2015

- The following complete vaccine series are now required for students entering grades K – 7:
  - 2 doses of MMR
  - 5 doses of DTaP, or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received on or after the 4th birthday
  - 4 doses of polio, or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received on or after the 4th birthday
- Students entering grades 8 – 12 in the 2015-16 school year are exempt from interval requirements until they graduate
  - In the 2016-17 school year, grades 9 – 12 will be exempt
  - By the 2020-21 school year, no grades will be exempt

Coming Soon!

- Effective September 1, 2016, meningococcal vaccine will be required for students entering grades 7 and 12
- Regulations and guidance related to this new requirement to be developed

Questions?

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