March 2023

To: New Mexico Public and Private School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Principals, School Nurses, and Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

Re: New Mexico 2023-2024 School Entry Immunization Requirements

Each year the Vaccine Advisory Group (VAG) meets to discuss New Mexico School Entry Immunization Requirements. Any changes are thoughtfully discussed and voted on by a group of appointed, experienced immunization professionals. These changes are based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annual recommendations. The VAG makes recommendations, and the Cabinet Secretary makes final decisions which the Public Health Division supervises.

The Immunization Requirements schedule incorporates changes related to the grade phasing-in process for required vaccinations. This year, the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine requirement will remain for 7th-10th grade entry. In addition, a second booster dose of MenACWY is now required for 11th grade entry or at age 16, which is the minimum age for the booster.

The two-dose Hepatitis A vaccine requirement is now rolled up to K-2nd grade.

At this time, Influenza, COVID-19 and HPV vaccines are not required for school entry but will continue to be strongly recommended as is considered best practice.

Other changes in immunization requirements for the 2023-2024 school year are otherwise minor and are listed in the column to the left.

Acceptable forms of proof of immunization status include a NMSIIS printout, printout from provider’s Electronic Medical Record or immunization record card.

Note: School vaccine requirements are still in force if students are enrolled in online studies, home schooling or other adaptations due to COVID-19. Thank you for keeping New Mexico’s children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Patrick M. Allen
Cabinet Secretary