

March 2023

To: All public and private New Mexico Schools, School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Principals, Headmasters and School Nurses

Recently, the “New Mexico Childcare/Pre-School/School Entry Immunization Requirements “2023-2024 School Year” document was released. As most of you are aware, all public and private New Mexico (NM) schools are required by state law and regulations to:

- (1) Maintain current immunization records for all students.
- (2) Make immunization records available to the NM Department of Health (NMDOH).
- (3) Report immunization compliance and noncompliance to NMDOH; and
- (4) Commence disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide either valid satisfactory evidence of immunization compliance per state law or a current and valid immunization exemption.

To assist in this effort, NMDOH grants school health offices the authority to serve as a "public health authority." This means that school nurses or designated school health personnel in the absence of a school nurse have limited authority to collect immunization information for school-aged children.

Resources for school health personnel to obtain immunization information include:

- (1) The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS), the registry for immunization information, which grants school nurses and school personnel with NMSIIS access to review and obtain immunization records.
- (2) Health care providers who administer immunizations to children.
- (3) A medically validated immunization record supplied by a parent or guardian; and
- (4) A valid immunization record from a school the student previously attended.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping New Mexico’s school children protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen  
Cabinet Secretary  
New Mexico Department of Health

*N.M. Stat. Ann. § 24-5-9 (West) Access to the information in the immunization registry shall be limited to primary care physicians, nurses, pharmacists, managed care organizations, school nurses and other appropriate health care providers or public health entities as determined by the secretary of health; provided that a managed care organization shall be entitled to access information only for its enrollees.*

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**