

Revisions and Additions 2026-27

Varicella

K-11th grade, proof of immunity: Receipt of vaccine; titer; or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of prior disease.

For all newly diagnosed Varicella cases, laboratory confirmation of disease is required.

Hepatitis A

Two doses required for K-5th grade.

Refer to the Immunization Schedule for exceptions and questions

School nurses with questions that are not addressed by the NM School

Requirements should consult the footnotes of the childhood and adolescent immunization schedule, for example from the American Academy of Pediatrics

March 2026

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

Re: **New Mexico 2026-2027 School Entry Immunization Requirements**

Each year the Vaccine Advisory Special Team (VAST) 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 the most current science-based childhood immunization schedule, as recommended by the NM Department of Health. The VAST makes recommendations, and the Cabinet Secretary makes final decisions.

This year, the schedule continues to incorporate changes related to the grade phasing-in process for required vaccinations. Two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine will now be required, rolled up to K-5th grade.

HPV, COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines are not required for school entry but continue to be strongly recommended.

Acceptable proof of immunization status includes an NMSIIS printout, printout from provider's Electronic Medical Record, or immunization record card.

School vaccine requirements apply to students enrolled in online studies, home schooling or other adaptations.

Thank you for keeping New Mexico's children safe from vaccine preventable diseases.



Miranda Durham, MD, Chief Medical Officer for

Gina DeBlassie
Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Health

- NMSA 1978, § 24-5-2 makes it unlawful for any student to enroll in school unless the student is immunized, or otherwise properly exempted.
- NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4, 7.5.2.8 NMAC and 6.12.2.8(F) NMAC authorize and require each school superintendent to prepare a record showing the immunization status of every child enrolled or attending a school under his or her jurisdiction.
- Additionally, 6.12.2.8 NMAC requires that schools start disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide satisfactory evidence of commencement or completion of immunization or an exemption from immunization.
- Section 6.12.2.8 NMAC and NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4 also stipulate that parents or guardians who neglect or refuse to permit their child to be immunized against diseases as required by law shall be reported by the school superintendent to the director of the public health division.

Pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistant Act [42 USC § 11432(g)(3)(C)], children experiencing homelessness must be able to enroll in school immediately, even if they are unable to produce immunization records. If the child needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization records, the enrolling school must immediately refer the parent or guardian to the designated local educational agency (LEA) homeless education liaison for assistance.