New Immunization Requirements
Rae-Ann Green, Director of Health Services

Expect great things.
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the following changes have been made to the immunization requirements:

- Reduced the 8 month provisional period to 5 days.
- Requires acknowledgement of the pertussis component of DTaP.
- Clarifies 4 doses of polio
- Added a dose of MCV for 12th grade entry.
- Created a medical plan and medical certificate.
- Reporting period is now December 1-31.
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL GRADES:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis.
  - One dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday.
  - Usually noted as DTP, Dtap, DT, or Td.

- 4 doses of polio.
  - Fourth dose must be given on or after the 4th birthday AND at least 6 months after the dose previously given.
  - The fourth dose won’t be needed if the third dose was given at age 4 or older AND at least 6 months after previously given dose.

- 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella.
  - Usually noted as MMR.

- 3 doses of hepatitis B.

- 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox).
  - Not needed if the child has already had the disease.
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 7TH GRADE:

The following vaccines must be given prior to the first day of 7th grade or risk exclusion:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap).
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 12TH GRADE:

The following vaccines must be given prior to the first day of 12th grade, or risk exclusion:

• 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV).
  • If a dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that dose should count as the dose needed for entry into the 12th grade.
EXCEPTIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN:

• In order to enroll for kindergarten, the student should have AT LEAST one of each of the required immunizations for entry.
• The medical plan should be submitted to the nurse within the first 5 days of school or risk exclusion.
• The plan will be reviewed by the nurse to ensure compliance.
• Documentation of the immunization should be presented to the school nurse the day immediately following the immunization.
• If documentation is not submitted, the student is considered non-compliant and risks exclusion.
EXCEPTIONS:

- Religious Exemptions
  - Documentation should be provided by a religious leader
- Medical Exemptions
  - Documentation by a physician
- Ethical Exemptions
  - Parental statement
- Homeless Students
  - Are not excluded from receiving immunizations, but won’t be excluded from school for not providing documentation.
- Students in Foster Care
  - 30 days to provide documentation
- Students transferring into the District
  - 30 days to provide documentation.
MONITORING OF IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE:

- It will be the school nurse’s responsibility to review immunizations every 30 days.
- The school nurse will keep the Social Worker and the Principal informed about immunization compliance.
- It’s not the nurse’s responsibility to exclude students who are non-compliant.
- If the medical plan is not followed, the administrator of the school should begin exclusion measures until requirements are met.
HOW OUR PARENTS HAVE BEEN INFORMED:

• Notification from school nurses at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.
• Information was sent to all families of students entering kindergarten, 7th and 12th grades.
• Messages through the media (television and newspaper interviews).
• Ronald McDonald Care Mobile
  • Camp Carmalt- July 19th
  • Camp King- July 12th
  • Camp Uprep- July 10th
• Ronald McDonald Care Mobile scheduled for Back-to-School event at Langley on August 21st.
• PPS Website
CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE (per ACHD):

- **Summary Offenses**
  - Usually first offenses
  - Sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine no less than $30, but no more than $300.
  - Imprisonment of no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days.

- **Misdemeanors**
  - Usually second and subsequent offenses.
  - Sentenced to pay a fine of no less than $500, but no more than $1,000.
  - Imprisonment of not exceeding 1 year or both.

- **Separate Offenses**
  - Violations on separate days shall be considered separate offenses.
  - Fines can be imposed per day, per student.
RESOURCES:


www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov

www.cdc.gov/vaccinations/acip
CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rae-Ann L. Green, RN, BSN, M.Ed.
Director of Health Services
rgreen1@pghboe.net
412-529-3956