



Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS
Director

Chester J. Culver
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Patty Judge
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December 4, 2008

Dear Medical Professional or School/Licensed Child Care Administrator:

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response, Bureau of Immunization and TB would like to inform you of changes to Iowa's Administrative Rules, Chapter Seven, "Immunization and Immunization Education: Persons Attending Elementary or Secondary Schools, Licensed Child Care Centers or Institutions of Higher Education."

Substantive changes and additions are as follows:

- The immunization requirements are updated to more accurately reflect the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
 - **For children attending licensed child care centers**, Pneumococcal vaccine (Pevnar) is required. Pevnar is recommended at ages 2, 4 and 6 months with a booster dose at 12-15 months of age. However, if a child is off schedule four doses may not be required. To assist with this potentially difficult schedule we have included with this mailing a lapse schedule for Pevnar administration.
 - **For elementary and secondary students**,
 - a fifth dose of DTaP is required for those applicants born on or after September 15, 2003;
 - a fourth dose of Polio is required for those applicants born on or after September 15, 2003; and
 - a second dose of Varicella is required for those applicants born on or after September 15, 2003, unless the applicant has a reliable history of natural disease.
- The Certificate of Immunization Exemption has been changed to allow medical professionals (MD, DO, PA, ARNP) to provide a medical exemption when administering a dose of live vaccine (e.g., varicella or MMR vaccine) would violate minimum interval spacing as recommended by the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP). In this circumstance, an exemption shall apply only to an applicant who has not received prior doses of the exempted vaccines. (For example: a child needs first doses of both Varicella and MMR. Inadvertently, only varicella is given at the visit. The MMR must be given at least 28 days from the Varicella (required minimum interval for 2 live vaccines) and a provisional certificate can not be issued because the child does not have one dose of each of the required vaccines (MMR). Therefore, in this example, a medical exemption can be provided for the 28 day minimum interval between the varicella and MMR.)
- The Provisional Certificate of Immunization has been changed to include the statement that the person signing the provisional certificate (MD, DO, nurse, or CMA) has informed the applicant, parent or guardian of the provisional enrollment requirements.
- The parent or guardian signature is no longer required on the Provisional Certificate of Immunization.

- At the end of the provisional enrollment period (60 days or less) if the student has not completed the required vaccines due to a minimum interval requirement a new Provisional Certificate of Immunization must be issued. The admitting official of the school or licensed child care center must maintain all Provisional Certificates of Immunization for that student until they are able to present a Certificate of Immunization.
- The Release of Information section has been updated to allow release of immunization information from the school to the licensed child care center that the child attends and vice versa.

These changes go into effect on January 7, 2009. Compliance with the Prevnar requirement for licensed child care centers is expected on January 7, 2009. The requirement for five doses of DTaP, four doses of Polio, and 2 doses of Varicella goes into effect for students entering kindergarten in the 2009/10 school year.

Providers are to immediately begin using the revised Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, and Provisional Certificate of Immunization. New versions of each certificate are attached to this letter. Existing completed certificates remain valid and do not need to be transferred to the new certificates. Copies of the new certificates are available on our Web page http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization_products.asp and will soon be available for bulk order from the Health Protection Clearinghouse by ordering from our Web page or calling 888-398-9696.

The final published version of Chapter 7 can be found on the Iowa Legislative Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/ACODocs/DOCS/12-3-2008.641.7.pdf>

If you have further questions please contact the Iowa Immunization Program at 800-831-6293.

Sincerely,



Don Callaghan, Chief
Bureau of Immunization and TB