



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Dave Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

July 23, 2021

Dear Colleague,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, pediatric immunization rates have declined. With in-person learning in the fall, all children attending daycare and grades K through 12 must be in compliance with immunization requirements. **We urge you to start contacting your patients now who are behind on their immunizations.** Use Citywide Immunization Registry [tools](#) to identify these patients.

As of June 19, 2021, 16% fewer doses of vaccine were administered to people ages 18 and younger in New York City (NYC), compared to the same period in 2019. Compared to pre-pandemic rates, up-to-date vaccination coverage for 19 to 35-month-olds decreased by 6.9 percentage points, and Measle-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) coverage for 12 to 59-month-olds decreased by 7.2 percentage points.

Full immunization requirements for the 2021 to 2022 school year are available [here](#). Please note:

- **MMR:** One dose is required for daycare, and two doses are required for grades K through 12.
- **Meningococcal Quadrivalent Conjugate (MenACWY):** One dose is required for grades 7 through 11; two doses for those entering grade 12, unless their first dose was at age 16 or older. The final dose must have been given at age 16 or older, otherwise a third dose is required. For grades 7 and 8, the first dose of MenACWY must be at age 10 or older.
- **Tdap:** One dose is required for grades 6 through 12. For grades 6 and 7, the dose must be given at age 10 or older.
- **Influenza:** All 6 to 59-month-olds enrolled in City-regulated childcare programs, including Head Start, nursery, and public or nonpublic pre-K and 3-K, must receive at least one dose between July 1 and December 31 of each year.

The only allowable exemption from immunization requirements for daycare or school is a valid medical contraindication to one or more vaccines. All medical exemption requests will be reviewed by NYC Health Department physicians.

For patients ages 12 and older, [use every opportunity](#) to strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccination. COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines. Offer COVID-19 vaccine when the child is in your office for routine immunizations or completion of school medical forms. For more information and resources, including on how to enroll in the COVID-19 vaccination program, visit our [COVID-19: Vaccine Providers webpage](#). For questions on immunizations, including ordering Vaccines for Children vaccine, call 347-396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect New Yorkers from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Immunization