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IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

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To: New Hampshire Child Care Providers
From: New Hampshire Immunization Program
Re: School/Child Care Immunization Requirements
Date: May 6, 2020

The NH Immunization Program (NHIP) has received questions about school and child care immunization requirements in light of the current coronavirus pandemic. The response to the pandemic has meant that many health care provider offices are consolidating services, providing more telemedicine services, and postponing face to face well child visits, which often include immunizations.

It is not clear what the situation will be in the coming months or in November when the annual childcare immunization report is due, but it seems likely that some children will not be up-to-date for all of the NH immunization requirements as a result of cancelled and postponed appointments.

For your awareness:

- 1) Health care providers are being encouraged to find ways *to continue to provide routine childhood immunizations, especially to children under 24 months of age*. In addition to developing safe strategies to provide routine immunizations, providers are also encouraged to use any in person visit as an opportunity to assess and provide recommended vaccines. Here is the current guidance, recently sent to providers, and also linked to the school page of the NH Immunization Program website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/immunization/schools.htm>.
- 2) Current administrative rules already allow for conditional enrollment for children who have had a least one vaccine dose in a series and an appointment for the next dose. Therefore, even those who have fallen behind should be able to be conditionally enrolled. Students without at least 1 dose of each required vaccine for their age should not be enrolled unless they have a valid exemption.

For these reasons, it is not expected that there will be any changes, or a need for changes, to the existing school and childcare immunization requirements. Of course, we will continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation over the coming weeks and months.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with NH child care providers to ensure that all children and their families are safe. Please contact us with any questions or comments at 603-271-4482 or at immunizations@dhhs.nh.gov.

Thank you for all you do today and every day!