



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section

1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1917  
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

August 10, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public, Charter and Federal School Principals

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head *Beth Rowe-West*  
Immunization Branch

Carol Tant, Head *Carol Tant*  
Children & Youth Branch

SUBJECT: Health and Immunization Status of Kindergarten Children

North Carolina Immunization Law (G.S. 130A-155(c)) requires all public, charter and federal schools to submit an annual immunization report. The purpose of this report is to ensure that all children enrolled in your schools are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases and to determine the number of children who meet state immunization requirements.

GS 130A-440 requires all children entering kindergarten in the public schools to receive a health assessment no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of school entry, and proof of that assessment be submitted to the school principal.

**IMPORTANT:**

- Schools should report their kindergarten health assessment and immunization data as of day 30 after the first day of attendance.
- Schools should no longer submit medical or religious exemptions to the Immunization Branch, although documentation of exemptions should be maintained in students’ records. There is no medical exemption from the Kindergarten Health Assessment, and religious exemptions should be maintained in the student’s records.
- The Kindergarten Health Assessment Status Report and the Kindergarten Immunization Assessment Report are integrated into one reporting document.

**Please submit the enclosed Kindergarten Report as soon as possible. It must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2009.**

Mail Reports To:

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
Immunization Branch  
1917 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1917

In completing the forms, you may find it helpful to follow these steps:

1. Distribute copies of the enclosed Class Worksheet of the Status of Kindergarten Children (DHHS 2051) to each kindergarten teacher. You may reproduce this form if you need additional copies.
2. After teachers have submitted the Class Worksheet (DHHS 2051) to you for each kindergarten class, summarize the school’s status by completing the School Summary Report (DHHS 2054).



3. Enter "0" on Line A of the School Summary report (DHHS 2054) if your school has no children in kindergarten. If your school is closed, please write "CLOSED" across the form. You are still required to submit the School Summary report if you have no children enrolled or if the school is closed.

4. Submit the report to the Immunization Branch by November 1, 2009.

**POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND:**

1. School personnel must notify, as soon as possible, the parents/guardians whose children do not meet the minimum health requirements (G.S. 130A-155 (a) and 130A-440). Please remember that the law allows parents/guardians of unimmunized or under-immunized children, as well as children without the required health assessment, 30 calendar days after the child's first day of school to obtain the health exam and/or immunizations and/or present proof of such.

2. To assure timely follow-up in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, maintain the list of students who either lack an immunization (shot) record or who need more immunizations to meet the state legal requirements.

3. Keep a list of children with Medical/Religious Exemptions in an easily accessible location.

4. An occasional immunization (shot) record may be difficult to read or interpret. Do not hesitate to call your local health department for assistance.

Enclosed for your reference is a Summary of the Required Immunizations

Thank you for your support of child health and childhood immunizations. If you have questions, please contact your Regional Immunization Consultant. If you have questions about the Kindergarten Health Assessment Status Report, please contact your Regional School Health Nurse Consultant.

Enclosures

cc: SMT  
Regional Immunization Consultants  
WCH School Health Nurse Consultants  
Jessica Gerdes

