



June 2019

Dear Principal or Child Care Administrator,

As of June 13, 2019, public, private and parochial schools and child care programs in New York can no longer accept requests for religious exemptions from school immunization requirements. This law applies to students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and to all child care settings. This legislation is in response to the measles outbreak and will help contain the spread of measles among unvaccinated students.

All prior religious exemptions granted to students are now invalid. Children who had a religious exemption and who will be attending child care or public, private or parochial school in the summer must now receive the first age-appropriate dose in each immunization series by June 28, 2019, to attend or remain in school or child care. Additionally, by July 14, 2019, parents and guardians of such children must show that they have scheduled appointments for all required follow-up doses.

Programs that operate in the summer or have year-round programming, such as Early Learn, Family Child Care or 4410 services, should notify their families as soon as possible about the deadlines above. Sites that permit students who are not in compliance with vaccination requirements to attend could be subject to fines.

Students who are not attending school or child care until September who have not received all required immunizations must receive the first dose in each immunization series within 14 calendar days after the first day of school or enrollment in child care. Within 30 calendar days of the first day of school, parents or guardians of such children will also need to show that they have scheduled appointments for all follow-up doses.

Schools and child care programs can continue to accept medical exemptions. Instructions on how to apply for a medical exemption can be found [here](#). Only valid medical exemptions will be approved.

All NYC students must meet the immunization requirements in order to attend school. Students are permitted to attend or remain in school or child care if they have received the initial series of vaccines but must remain on schedule to stay in school. You can review the immunization requirements online at schools.nyc.gov on the [Immunizations](#) page. Please share the [Immunization Chart](#) and attached letter with parents to ensure that students are in compliance with requirements for school year 2019-20. Public school principals can reach out to their borough health director with questions and child care administrators should reach out to earlychildhoodpolicy@schools.nyc.gov.