Disease Control & Forensic Pathology **Immunizations**

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MEMO

K-12 Immunization Requirements

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School Administrators,

As school comes back in session, I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge your important role in supporting student health and remind you of student immunization documentation requirements. North Dakota Century Code, 23-07-17, mandates all students in North Dakota K-12 schools and homeschooled students have one of the following on record with the school they report to or attend:

- A complete immunization record that meets requirements based on the student's age and grade.
 - o View immunization requirements here: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/health/diseasesconditions-and-immunization/immunizations/schools-and-child-care
- A signed exemption form (medical, religious, personal belief or history of disease).
 - o Access the exemption form here: https://hhs.nd.gov/immcert

Students who are in the process of becoming up to date on these immunizations may be provisionally enrolled and attend school (i.e., having a scheduled immunization appointment with local public health.)

Schools are responsible for enforcing this and must exclude students who do not meet these criteria on October 1, 2025. Schools that clearly communicate these expectations early in the year often find that few, if any, students need to be excluded.

For families who need to access to their student's North Dakota immunization record, they should follow the instructions given at https://hhs.nd.gov/IRR. This includes an online system called **Docket**® which allows individuals and their legal guardians to easily and securely access immunization records online. (Please note that immunizations given in certain settings and

out-of-state may not be recorded in the North Dakota Immunization Information System.) Schools may also request access to the NDIIS to view immunization records at NDIIS | Health and Human Services North Dakota.

Immunization records should be kept on file and easily accessible to support a rapid response in the event of a vaccine preventable disease outbreak. As evidenced by the recent measles cases in the state, timely identification and exclusion of unvaccinated students is critical to stopping the spread of certain illnesses and maintaining continuity of learning.

Your school will also want to compile immunization data by grade to complete the annual school immunization report. I will follow up in October with instructions for submitting the report online.

Thank you for your continued partnership in safeguarding the health and safety of North Dakota students.

Danni Pinnick, MPH

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Immunization Surveillance Coordinator