



Department of Health
108 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070
www.healthvermont.gov

Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641
www.education.vermont.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals and Independent School Headmasters

From: Mark Levine, M.D., Commissioner, Department of Health 
Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary, Agency of Education 

Date: August 31, 2018

Subject: Compliance with Vermont's Immunization Law and Regulations

According to Vermont law, in order to attend a school or childcare facility, students must have received the required vaccines, provide a current exemption form, or be provisionally admitted. All provisionally admitted students must be fully immunized within six months following enrollment or submit a signed medical or religious exemption form to the school. Parents of students who are not in compliance with the requirements must receive a "Notice of Missing Immunizations and Provisional Admittance" that will inform them of the steps needed to comply with the law. Follow up with these parents is critical. If parents do not comply by the date set, they should receive the Notice of Provisional Admittance and Exclusion.

The importance of children being fully vaccinated has been highlighted in recent years by measles outbreaks across the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from January 1 to July 14, 2018, 107 people from 21 states were reported to have measles, the majority of whom were not vaccinated. The Vermont General Assembly eliminated the philosophical exemption in 2015. Since then, the number of provisionally admitted students has risen slightly, while the number of nonmedical exemptions has dropped. Over 94% of all K-12 students in public and independent schools have received all required vaccines, the highest percentage in six years.

Vermont law also requires all schools to report immunization data to the Health Department each year. This provides interested parties with easy access to [up-to-date immunization information](#) for each Vermont school.

As the outbreaks of measles and pertussis in recent years have demonstrated, we need to work together to protect our communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vermont schools play a powerful role in supporting this work. Continue to encourage parents to have their children immunized and let us know how the Health Department and Agency of Education can help.

For more information about immunizations for K-12 students, visit the [Health Department's web page for school nurses and administrators](#). If you have questions, please call the Health Department's Immunization Program at 802-863-7638.