August 2019

To: All public and private New Mexico Schools, School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, School Principals, Headmasters and School Nurses

Recently, the "New Mexico Childcare/Pre-School/School Entry Immunization Requirements "2019 - 2020 School Year" document was released. As most of you are aware, all public and private New Mexico (NM) schools are required by state law and regulations to:

(1) Maintain current immunization records for all students;
(2) Make immunization records available to the NM Department of Health (NMDOH);
(3) Report immunization compliance and noncompliance to NMDOH; and
(4) Commence disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide either valid satisfactory evidence of immunization compliance per state law or a current and valid immunization exemption.

To assist in this effort, NMDOH grants school health offices the authority to serve as a "public health authority." This means that school nurses or designated school health personnel in the absence of a school nurse have limited authority to collect immunization information for school-aged children.

Resources for school health personnel to obtain immunization information include:

(1) The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS), the registry for immunization information, which grants school nurses and school personnel with NMSIIS access to review and obtain immunization records;
(2) Health care providers who administer immunizations to children;
(3) A medically validated immunization record supplied by a parent or guardian; and
(4) A valid immunization record from a school the student previously attended.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping New Mexico’s school children protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Kunkel
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Health