



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 2021

RE: Public Health Law Section 2164

Dear Administrator/Principal:

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) recognizes that the 2020-2021 school year was an unusual year as schools made many adjustments to protect students and staff against COVID-19 while ensuring all students were in compliance with the Public Health Law (PHL) Section 2164 immunization requirements.

As we look ahead to the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, we want to remind you that we expect schools to fully comply with PHL Section 2164 immunization coverage and reporting requirements. As partners in prevention, we all need to remain vigilant to protect the children in this state against all vaccine-preventable diseases.

As we all continue to face challenges related to the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that some students may have missed doses of vaccines that were due this past year. Most primary care providers and Local Health Departments have now resumed administering routine vaccines. Therefore, **NYSDOH expects any students who missed doses of vaccines due to COVID-19 to receive any overdue doses within 14 days after entry into the 2021-2022 school year, regardless of in-person or remote school attendance**; this may be extended to 30 days for students transferring from out-of-state or another country.

Please be advised that findings of violations of the Public Health Law may result in the imposition of a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per violation. Each student who is permitted to attend school in violation of the requirement of PHL Section 2164(7)(a) and each school year in which the mandatory annual School Immunization Survey is not submitted constitutes the basis for a separate violation of the Public Health Law for which a civil penalty may be imposed.

If you have any questions regarding the 2021-2022 school entrance requirements, need information about the school survey or are looking for additional resources, please visit our public website at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/>

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robin Suitor
Director, Bureau of Immunization

Elizabeth Rausch-Phung, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director, Bureau of Immunization