



CENTRAL SQUARE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

August 14, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We emailed this letter out last year and it still applies for this school year.

The New York State Health Department *is* requiring our school district to comply with Public Health Law 2164(7)(a) as it is written (see below). **We no longer have the ability or authority to extend the immunization deadline beyond the 14-day grace period at the start of school.** Previously, as long as we had proof of a scheduled immunization appointment, we were able to extend the deadline an additional 30 days for families. This unfortunately is no longer an option for school districts in New York State.

We realize the imposition that this law puts on families that have been struggling to get an immunization appointment for their child. Please feel free to contact the local health department and/or NY State Health Department and you will hear it directly from those that made this law. We at Central Square are terribly sorry for this inconvenience, as we want all students to be in school. Our school nurses have contacted the parents of all those students impacted.

Public Health Law 2164(7)(a)

Dear Superintendent/Principal/School Nurse Regarding Public Health Law 2164(7)(a)

Re: Public Health Law Section 2164(7)(a)

Dear Superintendent/Principal/School Nurse:

The Bureau of Immunization of the New York State Department of Health has legal authority to ensure that schools throughout the state comply with Section 2164(7)(a) of the Public Health Law related to immunization requirements for school entry. Public Health Law Section 2164(7)(a) requires that:

No principal, teacher, owner or person in charge of a school shall permit any child to be admitted to such school, or to attend such school, in excess of fourteen days, without the certificate provided for in subdivision five of this section or some other acceptable evidence of the child's immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, tetanus and pertussis and, where applicable, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), meningococcal disease and pneumococcal disease; provided, however, such fourteen day period may be extended to not more than thirty days for an individual student by the appropriate principal, teacher, owner or other person in charge where such student is transferring from out-of-state or from another country and can show a good faith effort to get the necessary certification or other evidence of immunization.

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 Section 2164(7)(a) constitutes the basis for a separate violation of the Public Health Law for which a civil penalty may be imposed. A student is in compliance with the immunization requirements when he or she meets the criteria set forth in Section 2164 of the Public Health Law.

Department of Health

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo Superintendent