



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 27, 2011

**TO:** Local Health Departments  
Local Health Officers  
Office of Healthy Schools  
County School Superintendents  
School Administrators  
School Nurses  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

**FROM:** Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH  
Acting State Health Officer  
Bureau for Public Health

*Catherine C. Slemp*

**RE: WVDHHR – BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INTERPRETIVE RULE,  
64CSR95, NEW SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 7<sup>TH</sup>  
AND 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

The attached interpretive rule became effective on March 12, 2011. The new immunization requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade entry pursuant to this rule will become effective in the 2012-13 school year. These requirements adopt the most current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for adolescent Tdap and meningococcal vaccine.

The requirements are:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade enterers must have had at least one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and one dose of MCV (meningococcal) vaccine.

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Bureau for Public Health  
Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services  
DIVISION OF IMMUNIZATION SERVICES  
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**WVDHHR – BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INTERPRETIVE RULE, 64CSR95, NEW SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

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- 12th grade enterers must have had at least one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and a second dose of MCV (meningococcal) vaccine, if indicated. Only one dose of MCV is required if the first dose was administered after 16 years of age.

Note that human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is an adolescent-specific vaccine that is not being required for 7<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade entry. Though HPV is not an airborne virus or communicable through casual or incidental contact, it is nevertheless a cancer-causing virus that is often spread among teens who engage in unprotected sexual activity. The Bureau for Public Health urges all of its partners to recommend HPV vaccination as diligently as the vaccinations legally required for 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade entry. Vaccine is a very effective and important part of our effort to prevent future cancers caused by HPV infection in adolescence.

Additionally, adolescents should be screened and recommended as needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine since the recommendation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of varicella vaccine has been in place only since 2006. Chickenpox can be a serious disease in the adolescent age group.

Please direct questions concerning these requirements to the Bureau for Public Health, Division of Immunization Services (DIS) by telephone at 1-800-642-3634 or visit the DIS on the web at [www.wvimmunization.org](http://www.wvimmunization.org).

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