Indiana State Department of Health
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

January 8, 2010

Re: 2010-2011 School Immunization Requirements

Dear School Superintendents, Principals, and Nurses:

During the 2009 legislative session, **Indiana Code 20-34-4-2** was revised, requiring the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to "adopt rules under **IC 4-22-2** to require school age children to receive additional immunizations against the following: Meningitis, Varicella, and Pertussis (whooping cough). The additional immunizations required under the rules shall include an immunization booster if considered appropriate by the state department."

"(d) The state department of health may expand or otherwise modify the list of communicable diseases that require documentation of immunity as medical information becomes available that would warrant the expansion or modification in the interest of public health."

"(e) The state department of health shall adopt rules under **IC 4-22-2** specifying the:

(1) required immunizations;
(2) child's age for administering each vaccine;
(3) adequately immunizing doses; and
(4) method of documentation of proof of immunity."

As directed by law, ISDH updated the school immunization portion of its Communicable Disease Rule. The final adopted rule can be found at: http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T04100/A00010.PDF?

ISDH immunization program staff meets annually with representatives from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), the Indiana Association of School Nurses (IASN), practicing school nurses, and public health nurses to review immunization requirements under Indiana law and current recommendations published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to discuss revisions to our school immunization requirements. The outcome of this year's discussion is summarized below.

Immunization Requirements:

1. Changes to the school immunization requirements for school year **2010-2011** are as follows:
   a. All preschool and kindergarten students will be required to have 2 doses of varicella vaccine, given on or after the first birthday and separated by 3 months, or a history of chickenpox disease.
   b. All kindergarten students will be required to have one of the required doses of polio vaccine given on or after the fourth birthday, and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
   c. All 6th – 12th grade students will be required to have 2 doses of varicella vaccine, given on or after the first birthday, and separated by age-appropriate intervals as defined by the CDC, or a history of chickenpox disease.
   d. All 6th -12th grade students will be required to have 1 dose of tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) given on or after the 10th birthday.
   e. All 6th-12th grade students will be required to have 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).

2. Please be aware that if changes to school requirements are enacted during the current legislative session, we may not know about them until later in the spring.

For a current list of requirements, please go to: https://chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/chirp_docs.htm
To view current legislative activity, please go to: http://www.in.gov/apps/lsa/session/billwatch/billinfo

3. We remind school administrative and nursing staff that **IC 20-30-5-18** requires schools to send information to ALL students, parents or guardians about meningitis and the meningococcal vaccine. Updated information is currently available on the Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) website.

4. We urge school administrative and nursing staff to send information about pertussis and the Tdap vaccine home with students who will be required to have the vaccine next fall. This information is available on the CHIRP website the week of January 11, 2010.

5. We urge school administrative and nursing staff to be proactive in collecting and recording the necessary immunization documentation for students to ensure compliance once these changes go into effect.

6. To help you with planning for the future, please be advised that we are considering the following changes in requirements for the **2011-2012** school year:
   a. Two varicella vaccines, appropriately spaced, may be required for **ALL** students, including all elementary grades.
   b. Two hepatitis A vaccines given on or after the first birthday and separated by 6 months may be required for all preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade students.

Immunization Reporting Requirements:
The following reporting changes *will be required* for the **2010-2011** school year:

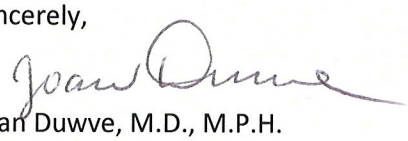
1. Per Indiana Administrative Code, **410 IAC 1-1-4**, Section 4b, "Schools shall review and update all student immunization records annually."

2. Per Indiana Administrative Code, **410 IAC 1-1-4**, Section 4c, "All schools are required to report immunization data to the department, in compliance with **IC 20-34-4-6**, electronically through the use of the immunization data registry, as established by **IC 16-38-5**, annually."

3. All schools reporting to ISDH under **IC 20-34-4-6** will be required to use CHIRP to report immunization data for all students in K, 1st and 6th grades. Schools that do not have the capacity to record immunization data electronically will be exempt on a case-by-case basis. Paper reporting will be accepted from exempt schools.
   a. For those who have not yet begun entering immunization data into CHIRP, please call the CHIRP help desk at (888)227-4439, and we will be happy to get you signed on and started.
   b. The Federal Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) requires parental consent to release immunization information from your school to the Indiana immunization registry. Sample parent permission slips are available on the IDOE website. For questions about CHIRP and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), please contact your local legal counsel, or the IDOE.

ISDH looks forward to continued partnership with IDOE, IASN, and all school nurses and administrators as we work to provide healthy, safe learning environments for children and teachers in Indiana schools.

Sincerely,



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