STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2025

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Elizabeth Hertel, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education

SUBJECT: 2025 Immunization Requirements for Students Entering Kindergarten and Seventh Grade or Enrolling in a New School District in Grades 1-12

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) continues to recommend, in alignment with the American Academy of Pediatrics, all routine immunizations to protect from serious illness and prevent spreading disease to others. Immunizations are one of the most effective and scientifically proven measures to protect children from harmful diseases and death. Since 1978, Michigan law has required that every student have an up-to-date certificate of immunization at the time of registration (or no later than the first day of school) for entry into kindergarten and seventh grade and for enrollment into a new school district, grades 1-12. (MCLs 333.9208, 333.9209, 388.1767, 380.1177).

Michigan schools are required to report immunization information regardless of their mode of instruction. Any student who fails to meet the below-mentioned immunization requirements shall not be permitted to enter or attend school.

For a student to attend school in Michigan, the Michigan Public Health Code requires a parent or legal guardian to have one of the following on file with the school:

1. A valid, up-to-date immunization record. Acceptable immunization documentation for school includes:
    - An immunization record from a provider's Electronic Medical Record.
    - An official Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) immunization record.
    - A state Immunization Information System record.

An up-to-date immunization record can include students who have a complete record or provisional status. A student who has a complete immunization record has received all doses of the school required vaccine series. A student who has provisional status has received at least one dose of a required vaccine and the next dose(s) is not yet due.

Note: Schools are required to follow up with the parent or legal guardian to ensure students with a provisional status have received the follow-up dose(s) of the required vaccine(s).

2. From a medical doctor (an MD or a DO), a signed State of Michigan 2025 Medical Contraindication Form, which states the medical contraindication(s), the vaccines involved, and the time during which the student is not able to get the vaccines.

3. A current, certified State of Michigan 2025 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver.

When a parent or legal guardian holds a religious or other objection that prevents a student from receiving vaccines, a State of Michigan 2025 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver is required. A health professional from the local health department will provide education on the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits/potential risks (consisting mostly of moderate side effects) of vaccination. Health professionals will address questions and concerns prior to signing and certifying a State of Michigan 2025 Nonmedical Immunization Waiver.

Proper maintenance of up-to-date immunization records, including waivers, is required to be on file for all students. The MDHHS or the local health department may conduct an audit of records in the event of an outbreak and/or non-compliance.

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry/School Immunization Reporting System (MCIR/SIRS) links immunization records contained within MCIR for students entered on the MCIR/SIRS school roster. All enrolled students in kindergarten and seventh grade and any students newly enrolled in a school district can be placed on the roster to meet school immunization reporting requirements. Consent is required to enter data into the MCIR/SIRS or to share MCIR data maintained by the school.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Consent Form for Disclosure template can be modified to include a school's information. The FERPA Consent Form for Disclosure template and additional guidance on immunization reporting can be found at www.MCIR.org, under the School & Childcare tab, Reporting to the Health Department option.

Once the FERPA Consent Form for Disclosure is signed for a student and returned to the attending school, data can be added to MCIR/SIRS in compliance with FERPA regulations. Without a Consent Form for Disclosure, the school cannot enter additional immunization data into the MCIR/SIRS. Data include immunization records and medical waivers.

If students are 18 years old or older, they may provide their own Consent Form for Disclosure of information from their education records.

If the FERPA Consent Form for Disclosure has not been received or is not on file for a student:

1. Check the No FERPA consent box in MCIR/SIRS.

2. Viewing existing provider-entered immunization information in the MCIR/SIRS does not violate FERPA, and students can remain on the school roster. Schools must be compliant with FERPA if the immunization data in MCIR/SIRS becomes part of the school record or shared in any way.

3. Do not enter any additional immunization data into the MCIR/SIRS.

    a. Examples of students who may not have provider-entered immunization data entered into MCIR are:
        - A foreign exchange student.
        - A child born outside of Michigan.
    b. These examples would need a FERPA consent on file to enter any immunization data into MCIR/SIRS.

4. A report of additional immunization data to the local health department should be done using the School Aggregate Reporting Form. To protect student privacy, this form should only contain aggregate non-identifiable information for students who do not have a consent on file.

    a. Students who are reported on the School Aggregate Reporting Form must be removed from the MCIR/SIRS roster, so they are not reported twice.

The completed School Aggregate Reporting Form must be submitted to the local health department each November and February when the MCIR/SIRS report is completed. The local health department will add aggregate data following school closure, which impacts the school's Immunization Program Status percentage.

Districts should contact their local health department for other methods of school immunization reporting if MCIR/SIRS is not available.

To obtain technical assistance, or to enroll as a MCIR/SIRS user, please reach out to your local health department contacts or the MCIR Helpdesk at 1-888-243-6652. Immunization guidance documents can be accessed by visiting the School & Childcare tab, Reporting to the Health Department option on www.MCIR.org.

We encourage everyone to stay up to date on their vaccinations to protect and promote the health and safety of all people in Michigan. Thank you for your continued support and assistance in ensuring that Michigan's students are properly immunized to avoid the ongoing threat of illness associated with vaccine-preventable diseases.

EH/MR:jj

c: Michigan Local Health Departments
Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments