

To: Vermont K-12 Schools hosting International Students
From: Immunization Program, Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
RE: Student Immunizations

Vermont school law requires the following:

- students must meet school entry requirements for immunization
- schools must notify parents when the student does not meet school entry requirements for immunization.
- schools must assure that students initially provisionally admitted meet vaccine requirements as soon as possible, not exceeding 6 months from enrollment.

The purpose of this document is to advise that while provisional enrollment is allowed under the law, the Immunization Program strongly advises that international students studying in Vermont arrive with documentation of all required vaccines. Such documentation will reduce the need for record searches, for acquiring vaccines upon arrival in Vermont, and for possible outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

The VDH Immunization Program recommends that school officials:

Establish and strictly follow a procedure for assuring that vaccination requirements are met prior to departure to the US.

Clearly notify parents and your sponsoring partners of Vermont's specific immunization school entry requirements, throughout the admission process.

Follow-up with non-respondents until the requirement is met.

Require prompt vaccination of any student who arrives without proof of vaccination.

Have a plan for vaccination of any student who arrives without documentation.

Report vaccination status of all students annually, as required.

Maintain a line list (located in the Forms for the School Year section) <http://healthvermont.gov/immunizations-infectious-disease/immunization/k-12-school-nurses-and-administrators> from the first day of school documenting any missing immunizations and the follow-up plan. This plan must follow the Vermont Immunization Regulation: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/about-us/laws-regulations/rules-and-regulations>

Proceed with high suspicion if an unvaccinated student develops symptoms of a vaccine preventable disease. Take appropriate action, including contacting a primary care provider for evaluation and advice.

Consult with the Vermont Department of Health if any student, faculty or staff member is suspected of having a vaccine preventable disease.

Standard

It is the standard of VDH Immunization Program to promote vaccination in the medical home, following the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedules.

VDH immunization services should be the utilized as the provider of last resort and are not a substitute for preparation before travel, or for comprehensive health care available at Vermont medical practices.

