

NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT SERVICES

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Dear Parents:

Please be advised that on June 13, 2019, Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill passed by the New York State Legislature which repeals the provisions of the Public Health Law permitting parents to request an exemption from immunization requirements based upon statements of religious belief. The new law is effective immediately.

As a consequence, any immunization exemptions previously granted based upon statements of religious belief are no longer valid, and no new exemptions of this nature will be considered or granted. As of now, the only basis upon which a child may be exempted from immunization requirements is a certification by a physician licenses in New York State that there is a medical reason why the child should not be immunized.

This means that all children, other than those who qualify for a medical exemption, must, before they can come to school, show proof of immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, pertussis, tetanus, and (where applicable by grade level) *hemophilus influenzae* type B (HiB), meningococcal disease, and pneumococcal disease.

Any child who is presented for enrollment without proof or required immunizations will not be permitted to attend school, or will be excluded after fourteen days if appropriate proof has not been presented. This may be extended to no more than thirty days for good cause shown as provided in the Public Health Law. This means that no student will be excluded from school for the balance of the 2018-2019 school year; however, the immunization requirements will apply to 2019 summer program enrollments and fall enrollment for the 2019-2010 school year.

Where a child has not received the full course of immunizations, s/he will be admitted to school if it is demonstrated that s/he has had at least the first dose in each immunization series required by law, and s/he has age-appropriate appointments to complete the immunization series.

More information about what immunizations are required is available from your child's pediatrician and on the District's website at www.ntschoools.org > Departments > Health Services. Please select Immunization Schedule from the Health Services Menu and click "Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule" to review the schedule and tables for required immunizations.

We ask parents to give immediate attention to this important message.

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools
North Tonawanda City School District