

RICHARD M. DELMORO
Superintendent of Schools
richard.delmoro@ecsdm.org

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223 Wisner Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940-3298
Phone (845) 326-1158
Fax (845) 326-1225
www.middletowncityschools.org

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

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As a consequence, any immunization exemptions previously granted based upon statements of religious belief are no longer valid, and no new exemptions of this nature will be considered or granted.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

This means that all scholars, 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 scholar 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 scholar 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 2019-2020 school year.

Where a scholar has not received the full course of immunizations, s/he will be admitted to school if it is demonstrated 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 scholar's pediatrician and on the District's website.

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

Respectfully,
Richard Del Moro, Superintendent of Schools