

September 2016

Greetings:

As you begin the school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team would like to welcome you back and inform you of some important school health updates and notices.

Upcoming changes to the reporting process for the Wisconsin Student Immunization Law

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health (DPH), and DPI are encouraging all Wisconsin schools and school districts to review their student immunization records and to take note of upcoming changes to the reporting process for the Wisconsin Student Immunization Law. The law itself has not changed, but changes in the reporting process are being made in order to provide clearer and more concise instructions to schools and in order to gain a fuller picture of student immunization rates in Wisconsin.

During the 2016-2017 school year the first steps will be taken by changing the look of the School Report to Local Health Department (F-04002), with more detailed and concise instructions. In addition, the school booklet will no longer be printed and mailed to you. Instead, the school booklet materials, including the School Report to Local Health Department, the timeline of required actions for school, the legal notices, and all educational materials will be available on the DPH website:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm>.

This year and every year, schools are asked to review all student waivers for accuracy. Student immunization records can be checked in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry to determine if the student has received the vaccine and the waiver status is no longer necessary. Please see the attached letter from Stephanie Schauer, Manager, Wisconsin Department of Health Immunization Program.

New Guidance on Lifesaving Skills Instruction

As your district begins curriculum planning for the 2017-18 school year, review the new DPI guidance on the 2015 legislation for lifesaving skills instruction, which will go into effect July 2017. Go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/pehestatutelifesavingskills.pdf> for the latest information.

New School Nurse Training

The New School Nurse Training is scheduled for October 12-13, 2016, in Madison at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel. This training is appropriate for those nurses who will be working for the first time in or with a school district. It is also appropriate for nurses who have worked previously in a school setting but, after an absence from such setting, are returning to a primary role as a school nurse. Topics that will be covered include guidance on the laws that affect school health, information on IEP's, 504's, school health records, and chronic health conditions management. This two-day workshop is a collaborative effort of the DPI and the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses. The cost of the program is \$100. Visit <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1840737> for registration information.

Zika Virus Mitigation Recommendations

U.S. Department of Education Secretary, John King, recommends that schools review the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) interim guidance for kindergarten through grade 12

(K–12) district and school administrators on public health actions pertaining to Zika virus infection <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/schools.html> and notes the following:

- Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito.
- Zika can also be transmitted through sex with an infected person or passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus.
- The CDC guidance is intended to address concerns about the risk of Zika virus infection in K–12 schools in the United States, provide school districts with information for planning school-related activities, and recommend actions that can be taken, in consultation with local public health authorities and government officials, to reduce the potential risk of Zika virus transmission on school premises and among members of the school community.

Complete information about Zika and how to prevent it is given at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika> and at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/comm-resources/toolkits.html>. As with all health-related issues, districts and schools must maintain the privacy and identity of individual students and teachers consistent with all applicable privacy laws.

Mitigation Checklist:

1. Inform the school community

- The risks of mosquito bites and how to protect themselves
- [Symptoms of Zika](#)
- [How to talk to children about Zika](#)
- [Sexual transmission of Zika](#)

2. As appropriate, encourage the use of the following

- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered insect repellents](#) containing one of these active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol
- Long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Clothing and gear treated with permethrin that will provide an added layer of protection
- Lightweight, loose fitting clothing during the warmer months. When wearing longer sleeves and pants, take additional steps to prevent [heat-related illnesses](#) (for example, drink additional water and take rest breaks)

3. Conduct routine mosquito control around school properties

- Once a week**, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water where mosquitoes lay eggs
- [Repair septic tanks](#) and screens on windows and doors
- Treat standing water that cannot be removed and will not be used for drinking or swimming with larvicides
- Use outdoor and indoor insecticides according to instructions to kill mosquitoes
- Contact your local mosquito control district for assistance with applying insecticides and conducting larval control in water that will not be used for drinking

4. Support members of the school community

- If requested, consider reassigning anyone who indicates she is or may become pregnant, or who is male and has a sexual partner who is or may become pregnant, to indoor tasks to reduce their risk of mosquito bites
- Ensure that staff and students receive prompt and appropriate medical evaluation and follow-up after a suspected exposure to Zika virus
- [Provide resources specifically for parents and caregivers](#)
- [Provide resources for those traveling](#)

Contact Bette Carr, School Nursing and Health Services Consultant at bette.carr@dpi.wi.gov or Rebecca Collins, Director, Student Services/Prevention and Wellness at Rebecca.collins@dpi.wi.gov.

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Date: July 13, 2016

To: Wisconsin School Administrators, School Nurses, and School Immunization Compliance Managers

Cc: Local Health Departments, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

From: Stephanie Schauer, PhD, Immunization Program Manager

Re: Assessing and ensuring compliance with the Student Immunization Law, Fall 2016

In an effort to provide more clear and concise directions to schools and in order to gain a fuller picture of immunization rates among students, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), has made several changes to the school booklet materials that describe the actions schools must take to assess, ensure and report compliance with the Student Immunization Law. These changes are outlined below.

- 1) **Starting school year 2016-2017, the school booklet materials will be found online only.** Booklets will no longer be mailed to schools. Instead, please visit the DHS website to download the materials: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm>. In August, a postcard will be mailed to schools to remind them that the materials can be found online.
- 2) **Instructions for schools have been updated to be more clear and concise.** The timeline of required school actions has been revised and is now accompanied by a flowchart. Additionally, several materials have been updated to clarify that laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable to meet the minimum immunization requirements for certain diseases.
- 3) **School compliance results from the previous school year are now online.** Schools/districts should review their compliance results from the previous school year using the links below. Public school districts and private schools with <99% of students in compliance during the previous school year are required to exclude noncompliant students during this coming school year.
Public districts: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/compliance-public-districts.pdf>
Private schools: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/compliance-private-schools.pdf>
- 4) **We are in stage 1 of improving the School Report to Local Health Department.** Eventually, in order to gain a fuller picture of immunization rates among Wisconsin students, this report will be changed to collect aggregate compliance data for each vaccine. For the 2016-2017 school year, however, only small changes have been made. The report is now online and is available here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/f0/f04002.pdf>. Schools now need to include their DPI LEA (district) and school codes on the form. Instructions for finding these codes are found on the report. In Section C, there is a new row 9 that collects the number of students who have received no required immunizations and have waivers for all of these vaccines. Infinite Campus, Skyward, PowerSchool, RECIN and the Wisconsin Immunization Registry have been notified of these changes. Please contact

them if you need technical assistance with their software to complete the School Report to Local Health Department.

On August 25, 2016 at 2:00pm, DHS and DPI will be hosting a webinar to discuss these changes in more detail. Please use this link to attend: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14059632/events/5766391>

We thank you for your continued efforts to ensure all school children in Wisconsin are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. We look forward to a continued partnership with you. If you have questions, please contact the Wisconsin Immunization Program at 608-267-9959 or DHSImmProgram@wi.gov.