

September 18, 2017

To: All New Mexico Schools (both public and private, School Superintendents, Charter School Administrators and School Principals)

This letter is a follow-up to the school immunization issues that were discussed during the PED Secretary's July 13th call with superintendents. Schools are required to complete annual immunization coverage reports to help track immunization coverage rates.

To comply with the reporting process, an email has been sent to your school nurse or other administrator with an [online Survey Monkey link](#) to be submitted by November 1, 2017—or earlier if possible. This survey collects information on kindergarten and seventh-grade classes. Each individual school with a kindergarten and/or seventh grade should submit *one* survey.

You can view the [2017-18 NM School Immunization Requirements](#) online.

NMDOH will make every effort to make submitting the reports to NMDOH as easy as possible. Each region in the state has a School Health Advocate (SHA) who provides support for school nurses and is an excellent resource for this process. The SHAs and the areas they cover are:

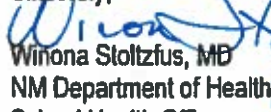
- *Northeast Region* (Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, Union counties) - Susan Acosta, [susan.acosta@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.acosta@state.nm.us)
- *Southeast Region* (Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Quay counties) - Rebecca Trujillo, [rebecca.trujillo@state.nm.us](mailto:rebecca.trujillo@state.nm.us)
- *Southwest Region* (Dona Ana, Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, Sierra, Socorro counties) - Rebecca Trujillo, [rebecca.trujillo@state.nm.us](mailto:rebecca.trujillo@state.nm.us)
- *Northwest Region* (Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan counties) - Susan Acosta, [susan.acosta@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.acosta@state.nm.us)
- *Metro Region* (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties) - Susan Acosta, [susan.acosta@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.acosta@state.nm.us)


Please remember there are several statutes and regulations that address the issue of NM students receiving required immunizations before school entry or enrollment:

- [NMSA 1978, § 24-5-2](#) makes it unlawful for any student to enroll in school unless the student is immunized, or otherwise properly exempted. *This includes students who are over 18 years of age.*
- [NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4](#), [7.5.2.8 NMAC](#) and [6.12.2.8\(F\) NMAC](#) authorize and require each school superintendent to prepare a record showing the immunization status of every child enrolled or attending a school under his or her jurisdiction. Additionally, [6.12.2.8 NMAC](#) requires that schools start disenrollment proceedings for students who are unable to provide satisfactory evidence of commencement or completion of immunization or an exemption from immunization.
- Section [6.12.2.8 NMAC](#) and [NMSA 1978, § 24-5-4](#) also stipulate that parents or guardians who neglect or refuse to permit their child to be immunized against diseases as required by law shall be reported by the school superintendent to the director of the public health division.

Thank you for working with us to protect New Mexico's students from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

  
Winona Stoltzfus, MD  
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School Health Officer

  
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NM Department of Health  
Infectious Disease Bureau Chief

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