



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Supports for Students Displaced by Disasters

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, requires that students arriving from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands or any affected storm area who are identified as homeless or unaccompanied youth be provided immediate access to school and services they may need. This includes students who may seek entry to school but lack health records or immunization documentation.

The following information is provided regarding health assessments and immunizations for students displaced by affected storm areas:

Health Assessments

A health assessment should be completed by a primary care provider once students have access to health insurance (either privately or through the HUSKY program). Other options may include a health assessment through a school based health center, local/community health clinic, or provided by the school medical advisor. For information on the HUSKY program contact the Department of Social Services toll-free at 1-877-CT-HUSKY (877 284-8759).

Immunizations

For students arriving from Puerto Rico without health/immunization records, school nurses may request read only access to the Puerto Rico Immunization Registry (PRIR) to obtain students' immunization histories. The steps to request access to the PRIR are below.

Immunization registry information is not available electronically for students arriving from the U.S. Virgin Islands. Fortunately, with the exception of Hepatitis A and Meningococcal Conjugate, vaccine requirements for children in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are similar to Connecticut's.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program has also designated a point person to support school districts with accessing the PRIR. Nurses may contact Michele Ramos from the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System at 860-509-7935 or 860-509-7929 to assist with researching a newly arriving student's history in the PRIR.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Knutson, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.

Steps to Request Access to the Puerto Rico Immunization Registry (PRIR)

For students arriving from Puerto Rico, school nurses may request read only access to the Puerto Rico Immunization Registry (PRIR) to check on newly arriving students' immunization histories. The steps to request access are as follows:

- Complete the Security and Confidentiality agreement (located on the PRIR Web site at <https://prir.salud.gov.pr>) and submit to PRIR. Include:
 - the first and last name of the school nurse or school designee requesting access;
 - school address where the school employee works;
 - school phone number; and
 - e-mail address.
- After this contact information is received, the PRIR will create an account and send immunization information to the school nurse or school designee by email.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program also has a designated person with read only access to the PRIR. Nurses may contact Michele Ramos at 860-509-7935 or 860-509-7929 to assist with researching a newly arriving student's immunization history in the PRIR.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Knutson, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.