

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner



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Immunization Program

TO: College Health Services and Administrative Personnel

FROM: Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH
Connecticut Immunization Program Manager *Kathy Kudish*

DATE: January 27, 2016

SUBJECT: College Immunization Requirements-Varicella Clarification

The purpose of this memo is to serve as a reminder for college personnel on the immunization requirements for college entry and to provide further clarification on students presenting documentation of a history of varicella disease.

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine

As of August 1, 2010 **all incoming freshman** are required to show proof of 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. The doses should be separated by at least 28 days with dose number one given on or after the first birthday. Exemptions to this requirement include:

1. Individuals born before January 1, 1957,
2. Laboratory confirmation of immunity to such disease,
3. Documentation from a physician stating that the student is medically contraindicated from receiving such vaccine,
4. Documentation from the student that such an immunization is contrary to his/her religious beliefs,
5. Documentation from a physician or director of health that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease,
6. Enrollment in a distance-learning program conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting without other students present.

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Graduation from a Connecticut high school in 1999 or later



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The provision in the statute regarding **“Graduation from Connecticut high school in 1999” does not apply to the 2 dose mumps and rubella requirement.** Although most students have probably received 2 doses of the combination measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, you cannot assume that all incoming freshman who graduated from a state high school since 1999 are adequately immunized; some students may have received the single antigen vaccine or had an exemption. College health service personnel must still review student immunization records to ensure that all incoming freshman are in compliance with the 2 dose MMR immunization requirements prior to enrollment.

Varicella Vaccine

As of August 1, 2010 **all incoming freshman** are required to show proof of 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. The doses should be separated by at least 28 days with dose number one given on or after the first birthday. Exemptions to this requirement include:

1. Individuals born in the United States before January 1, 1980,
2. Laboratory confirmation of immunity to such disease,
3. Documentation from a physician stating that the student is medically contraindicated from receiving such vaccine,
4. Documentation from the student that such an immunization is contrary to his/her religious beliefs,
5. Documentation from a physician or director of health that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease,
6. Enrollment in a distance-learning program conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting without other students present.

Graduation from a Connecticut high school in 1999 or later does NOT apply to varicella vaccine.

Clarification On History Of Varicella Disease

Before a student can enroll in an institution of higher education, a student must “provide proof of adequate immunization against ... varicella ... as recommended by the national Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices [(the “ACIP”)]....” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-155(a) (the “Statute”).

Under the Statute, “proof of adequate immunization” includes “a certificate from a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse stating that in the opinion of such physician or advanced practice registered nurse such immunization is medically contraindicated ...” or “a certificate from a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or the director of health in the student’s present or previous town of residence, stating that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease....” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-155(a)(1) and (3), respectively.

The Statute does not prescribe the precise contents or manner of the “certificate” required under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-155(a)(1) or (3). Consequently, higher education institutions have some discretion to determine what documentation they will accept to ensure compliance with the

requirements of the Statute and have sought guidance from the Department regarding appropriate documentation.

Neither the Statute nor the ACIP requires inclusion of the date of disease contraction on a certificate for the certificate to be valid under the Statute. A physician, advanced practice nurse or director of health may require such information before he or she will complete a certificate regarding medical contraindication or a previous confirmed case, as the case may be; however, such date does not necessarily need to be included on the certificate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.