

# New School and Daycare Entry Vaccine Requirements in Development

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September 26, 2007

The logo for the Connecticut Department of Public Health is a blue rectangle with a white triangle pointing to the right. The text "CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH" is written in white, uppercase letters across the rectangle.

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# Outline

- Why have school and daycare requirements
- Connecticut law regarding requirements
- Principles behind decision to require and when to begin to require vaccines in Connecticut
- Process for making requirements
- New requirements in development and timetable
  - Special considerations

# Why have requirements?

- 1. Make congregate educational settings as healthy as possible.**
  - Schools and DCC bring susceptible children together, facilitate person-person transmission of disease between them and to community.
  - Seasonality of many diseases related to school year.
- 2. Achieve highest possible immunization levels**
  - DCC and school entry are last common check-points for almost everyone
  - High-levels of immunization in community reduce risk to all in community – even those without vaccination, whether or not disease is spread in DCC or school setting

# Connecticut Law

Decision as to whether have requirements is based in law

- All states have laws requiring certain vaccinations for daycare and school entry.

In CT, 3 important statutes:

1. **CGS Section 19a-7f** – “the standard of care for immunization in CT” is the “*recommended schedule published by the AAP or ... ACIP.*”
2. **CGS Section 10-204a** – “Each local board of education shall require each child to be protected by *adequate immunization* before being permitted to enroll in any public or non-public school.” “*Definitions of adequate immunization* shall reflect the schedule adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f”

## Connecticut Law (cont)

3. **CGS Sections 19a-79 and 19a-87b** — licensed daycare statutes applying to child day care centers, group day care homes and family day care homes.

“Before being permitted to attend (licensed day care), each child shall be protected as age-appropriate by *adequate immunization* against ... any vaccine required by the schedule of active immunization adopted pursuant to section 19a-7f.”

- Regulations specify which vaccines required and what is considered proof of immunity for both school and daycare entry requirements and valid exemptions for immunization.

# Principles to satisfy before require vaccination in CT

## 1. Safety

- At least one year to be sure no complications not already known about (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> rotavirus vaccine; Lyme vaccine)

## 2. Cost barriers to vaccination largely eliminated

- Must be supplied through VFC; ideally, state supplies or insurance fully covers

## 3. Disruption of School/Daycare

- 2-3 years for providers to fully integrate into practice
- High vaccination levels being achieved (70% or greater)

## 4. Adequacy of national supply

- E.g., Pneumococcal and meningococcal conjugate vaccines

# Principles - 2

Priority order to require:

1. Vaccines for which DCC and/or schools are places where the disease being prevented is spread.
  - Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, pertussis, influenza
  - Polio, hep A, pneumococcal disease - mainly in DCC
2. Vaccines for which transmission in DCC or schools is possible and where high vaccination levels in the community help protect the unvaccinated
  - Polio, hep B, hep A
3. Vaccines for which DCC and school transmission is unimportant but where high vaccination levels in the community help protect the unvaccinated
  - HPV

# Process to institute new requirements

- **Sound out timing with key providers**
  - Two state vaccine advisory committees
  - CT Chapter AAP School Health Committee
- **Inform Providers**
  - Written communication
  - Talks
- **Write regulations and submit for review**
  - Process takes a year
  - Opportunity for public hearing and incorporation of comments
  - Final approval by Regulations Review Committee



# New Immunization Requirements in Development

## Licensed Daycare

- **Influenza** - 6-23 month olds
  - beginning January 2009
- **Hepatitis A** – for 1 year olds born in 2008 or later
  - beginning January 2009
- **Influenza** 2-8 years
  - beginning January 2010
  
- **Rotavirus** – for 1- 7 month olds
  - No date set - cost and uptake issues

# New Immunization Requirements in Development

## School

- **Varicella** - 2-doses KG and 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry
  - Beginning in September 2009
- **Tdap** - booster for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry
  - Beginning in September 2009
- **Hepatitis A** – 2 doses for KG entry
  - September 2013
  
- **Meningococcal** vaccine - 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry
  - No date set – supply, uptake and possible safety issues
- **HPV** – 3 doses for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry
  - No date set – too soon (1<sup>st</sup> year); cost & uptake issues; possible special exemption if decide to mandate

# New Immunization Requirements in Development

## College

- **Mumps, Varicella** - 2-doses or other proof of immunity
  - Beginning September 2009

## College Immunization Law in CT

- No specified standard of care for college entry
- Requirements for individual vaccine must be made by statute.
- Currently, measles, rubella (2 doses each) and meningococcal vaccine specified\*

\* CGS Sections 10a-155 and 10a-155b.

# Special Considerations 1

## Proof of immunity to varicella

Evidence of immunity for KG, 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry

1. Documentation of vaccination – 2 doses, at least 28 days apart
2. Positive serologic test
  - commercial lab test acceptable
3. Diagnosis/verification of history of varicella by a healthcare provider
  - Includes a school nurse
  - For mild or atypical cases should have:
    - Epi-link to typical varicella or lab-confirmed case, OR
    - Lab confirmation
    - If neither, vaccinate

# Special Considerations 2

## Number of doses of influenza vaccine

Number of doses for 6 month - 8 year olds in licensed daycare:

- Recommended:
  - initial 2-dose series in same year, 4-6 weeks apart (depending on formulation) then q year.
  - If previously vaccinated but never with 2 doses in one year, need 2 doses in the same year.
- Potential requirement:
  - At least one dose in preceding 4 months by January 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose scheduled IF can't show proof of having gotten 2 doses in a year



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