



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
Steven L. Paine, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools
wvde.state.wv.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Superintendents
County School Health Services Directors
County Special Education Directors
County Collaborative Early Childhood Core Team Members
School Principals
School Nurse RNs

FROM: Lou Maynus, Ed.D., Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Teaching and Learning

DATE: August 18, 2017

RE: School Health and Wellness Checkpoints and Immunization Requirements

Revised in 2015, WVBE Policy 2423, *Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*, now includes the following health information for new enterers in pre-k or kindergarten and grades 2, 7, and 12:

- proof of required immunizations for school enrollment;
- proof of the WV HealthCheck (well child visit) by a physician or advanced practice provider; and
- proof of a dental examination by a dentist.

Please note, while pre-k, kindergarten and second graders are already providing such proof prior to entry or advancement, proof of the HealthCheck and dental exam starts this school year for grade 7, and grade 12 begins with the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

To simplify the information identified in WVBE Policy 2423, the following outlines the enrollment and wellness information for new enterers and students advancing to grades 2, 7, and 12:

1. Immunizations

Immunizations are a requirement by state code for student enrollment in WV public (and private) schools. Lack of required immunizations can lead to the denial of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to prevent the possible spread of communicable diseases. The requirements for pre-k, new enterers in K-12, and Grades 7 and 12 are posted at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/immunization/requirements/Pages/default.aspx>.

Since no student would ever be indicated for more than one dose of either vaccine at the time of 7th or 12th grade entry, provisional enrollment to complete a vaccine series is not applicable for adolescent vaccination. County boards of education do have the flexibility of providing a 2-week grace/processing period to gather records, process/review records, and assist students and families.

School personnel are required to enter immunization data into the West Virginia State Immunization Information System (WVSIIS) according to WVDHHR Rule and WVBE Policy 2423. WVSIIS is now the

state repository for all immunization data. As WVDE and WVDHHR finalize the merger of data, existing WVEIS immunization data, and any newly entered data from schools, will show as historical data in WVSIS to differentiate between data entered by medical providers and the public schools.

2. HealthCheck

At the time of enrollment, students should provide proof that they have completed a HealthCheck or comprehensive physical within the last 12 months. No child should be refused FAPE because they did not provide proof of a HealthCheck/comprehensive physical. Although there are HealthCheck forms, many medical providers use electronic medical records to generate their own specific forms which should include the vision, hearing, and developmental/language screenings.

Once a new enterer has been screened through a HealthCheck, they will not need further school screenings to continue in pre-k or kindergarten within the public school system. After a new enterer provides proof of a HealthCheck, all future screenings should be based on referrals, rather than through mass screenings.

HealthCheck screening data should be entered into the WVEIS under STU.301-Health Tab then Screening Tab. The oral health screening under this tab refers to an oral screening completed by the medical provider on the HealthCheck not a dentist. Please do not enter dental exam data in this area.

3. Dental Examination

At the time of enrollment, students should provide proof that they have completed a dental examination with the dentist's signature within the last 12 months. No child should be refused FAPE because they did not provide proof of a dental exam. There is no special form to show proof of dental examination but the school or dentist may provide a specific form to use.

If no proof of dental exam exist, the parent/guardian should be provided with an option, based on consent, to enroll their child for an oral health assessment regardless of their ability to pay. This assessment should be offered during the school year in coordination with a local dental provider. The WVDHHR-Oral Health Program (304.356.4464) can assist with finding dental services within the individual community.

Dental examination data will be entered into WVSIS under the Oral Health Service Module in the near future (likely operational in fall 2017). All dental providers will be provided access to the module to enter dental exams similar to the immunization registry. Until the WVSIS Oral Health Service Module is fully functional, counties should maintain the paper record and track completion via spreadsheet or checklist.

4. Tuberculosis (TB) Testing

West Virginia TB law (§16-3D-3) was changed in 2014 and no longer requires school employees or students to have a TB test unless they are suspected of having or been exposed to active tuberculosis.

The WVDHHR-TB Control Program has developed a protocol and referral form for TB Evaluation and/or Testing (form TB-70S). The form has a basic information sheet on the back for parents to assist with education and information. The forms have been provided to local health departments and are posted on the WVDHHR-TB Control website at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/tuberculosis/Pages/TBForms.aspx>.

Please feel free to contact Rebecca King, Office of Special Education at rjking@k12.wv.us or (304) 558-2696 if you have questions regarding the clarifications in this memorandum.