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Kolva, Patti

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From: Gloria Sanders <gsanders@hanoverpublic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:24 AM
To: Findley, Cynthia
Subject: Provisionally Enrolled Students

2016 APR 22 AM 11:35

Good Morning Ms. Findley, and

Thank you so much for sending out the proposed amendment to Chapter 23, Subchapter C that will take steps to ensure that children attending school in this Commonwealth are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. We appreciate the update, however.....

I have been a school nurse for only two years (prior to that worked in an ER for 20 years) and am the Certified School Nurse for the secondary schools in the Hanover Public School District in York County, Hanover, PA. As you and others have mentioned, one constant that I have noticed is that 7th graders are **always** our greatest challenge in getting them to comply with the immunization requirements. My conclusion, after speaking with a local pediatricians office and other school nurses, is this:

At this time, 6th grade students are required by the State to get a physical exam - **if the student is only 11 years old at the time they present for their physical, which most of them are because they are 6th graders and often get the 6th grade physical over the summer months - they could receive the Tdap but are not eligible for the MCV until they are 12 years old** - so what appears to happen is the student gets the required physical, but leaves the office **without** the immunizations because the theory is that "we will just give them both at the same time when they are 12 y.o." -- so the next school year comes and during this year the 7th graders are now mandated to get their dental exam and it appears that the immunizations mandated for this school year also, are forgotten about and/or the family does not want to pay another fee to go back to the physician's office "just to get these immunizations" until the student is practically excluded for failure to comply.

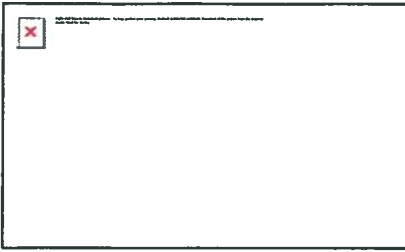
I understand the importance and am in full agreement with the State requirements, in fact, we had an outbreak of pertussis in our school district at the end of last year and it was a mess. In light of that, we have given many more notices than the usual 60, 120 and 180 day provisional letter that is normally sent. We put on our thinking caps and began to think of other creative ways to get our point across. So, we not only sent out additional notices at the end of their 6th grade year and again 30 days into the new school year, but we also put the information out on our website for families and students to see; and also asked our principal do an "all call" to all parents of 7th grade students indicating that the Tdap and MCV are due now (we did that at the very beginning of the school year)- it did cut our provisional list in half from what it was last year but the numbers remaining were still high.

I would like to propose, if I may, to have the dental and physical examination requirement switched around meaning that the 6th grade student would be required to get a dental and the 7th grade student would be required to get a physical exam which would then align with the immunization requirement for that same year. My thoughts would be that we would then capture many more of these immunizations at the time of their physical exam as they would be 12 years old; and would then be able to receive the Tdap and MCV at that time?!

I recognize, as do many other school nurses responsible for the secondary schools, that 7th grade always has the most students that are provisionally enrolled due to MCV and Tdap not being obtained timely. I truly believe that the reason as stated above is a large contributor to this problem.

I would appreciate any feedback and any consideration that you would give to this suggestion.

Thank you so much and best wishes for a great day!
Gloria Sanders, RN, BSN, CSN



Gloria J. Sanders, RN, BSN, CSN
Certified School Nurse
Hanover Public School District
Phone: (717) 637-9000, Ext. 316
Email: gsanders@hanoverpublic.org

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