

Kolva, Patti

3147

RECEIVED

IRRC

From: Patricia Prenni <prenni@b-ssd.org>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:04 PM
To: Findley, Cynthia
Subject: Proposed Immunization Changes

2016 APR 22 AM 11:35

Good afternoon. I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the Immunization Regulations. As a School Nurse who was worked in the public school system for the last 13 years, I can understand the need to revisit the current immunization regulations. I do believe the 8 month provisional allotment is too long but I do not feel a 5 day provisional period is the answer. The beginning of the school year is a very busy time for school nurses as we are collecting medications, obtaining updated emergency cards, creating new records for newly enrolled students, copying and sending records of students who have withdrawn from the district over the summer, and developing and updating plans of care for students with medical concerns. Having to police immunizations within the 1st five days of school would be difficult to say the least.

If the idea behind the changes is to decrease the number of students that are not up-to-date with immunizations, it would make more sense to not allow students to start school at all unless all requirements have been met. Currently in our district, once the student is excluded on the 8 month provisional date, the parent must complete all necessary paperwork to re-enroll the student once the required immunizations have been given. For a parent to have to do that 5 days after the start of the school year seems ridiculous. In addition, I don't believe starting and stopping school for a child entering kindergarten would be in the best interest of the child. At that age, some children have some difficulty separating from the parents and they need consistency within their daily routine. It think it would be better to delay starting the child instead of starting and then excluding them from attending school.

Most of the school nurses I know are not paid to come in to the school over the summer break and therefore do a lot of preparation for the next school year at the end of the previous school year. That would be the time to notify parents of children registering for kindergarten and those entering 7th grade of the need for certain immunizations. If parents knew they had to receive the required immunizations prior to being able to start school at all, they would be more likely to have the immunizations completed over the summer.

If a provisional period is necessary, 30-60 days or even 60-90 days might be easier to monitor and enforce. The majority of the families in my district do not wait until the last minute to arrange for the necessary immunizations but there are always a few who do and that will not change based on the length of the provisional period.

Thank you for asking for our feedback in regards to these proposed guidelines. I hope the feedback you receive from all stakeholders will be taken into consideration before making any changes.

*Patty Prenni RN, MSN, CSN
School Nurse
Saltsburg K- 12 Campus
Blairsville-Saltsburg School District
724-639-3547 Ext 5607*

This electronic communication is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential, proprietary or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. No confidentiality or privilege is waived by any accidental or unintentional transmission. If you received this electronic communication in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer.