



HOLLIDAYSBURG AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

CHARLES W. LONGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1320 Union Street
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648
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April 22, 2016

Dear Ms. Findley:

I am a RN Health Room Assistant at Charles W. Longer Elementary School in Hollidaysburg, PA. I presently have a school population of 554 students that houses K-6. I have already registered 54 new kindergartners for the 2016/2017 school year. Twenty of the kindergartners to be are completely immunized. The remaining students are deficient. I have several questions and/or comments regarding the proposed changes in the immunization laws.

I would think that I am living in a perfect world if I would have all 54 students completely immunized on the first day of school. The majority of the students I registered are in need of the Dtap, MMR#2, and the Varicella#2. How is this situation to be handled if this legislation is approved by the time school starts in August?

Will there be a form letter from the state to send home to the parents of provisional kindergarten students for now and for the future kindergarteners?

Will or could these new changes be implemented for the 2017/2018 school year so parents and physicians are more familiar with the new regulations?

How are the physician's offices' being trained on these proposed changes? I have had to make several phone calls to check on immunizations that turned out to be given on the wrong schedule. We, as nurses, take their patients' immunization records as gospel, when it turns out there are issues.

How are insurance companies going to pay for these immunizations and doctor visits if a child's insurance coverage is too early for a visit to complete the immunizations before school commences in August? I get calls all of the time stating, "I can't take my child to his/her doctor because our insurance won't cover the visit and the cost of the immunizations until November December, January."

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Does a " medical certificate" mean a printout form the child's physician stating when their next appointment is scheduled to get their immunizations completed? Will the physician have a form issued by the state giving this information? Does this also mean that we, as nurses, need to call the physician to see if the parents of a provisional student follow through with the appointment and get the immunizations completed? What allowances do we give for missed appointments? Immediately exclude them from school?

What role will the State Health Departments play in this? Can we send provisional students there who have insurance, but the need is there by state laws to get these children fully immunized?

I feel there are many unanswered questions for the nurses in the school setting, as well as for the physicians taking care of these children. I feel that a school year is needed to educate the very people who deliver the immunizations. I feel that it will be so confusing for the parents if this is implemented for the next school year. Believe me, there is nothing more that I want for every student to be completely immunized, but I feel we need more time on this.

I thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you with answers to my questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan P. Nori RN".

Susan P. Nori RN

Health Room Assistant