

July 22, 2021

Dear School Superintendents.

This letter is an update of the March communication regarding vaccines and school immunization requirements. Since that time New Mexico has over 63% of adults fully vaccinated for COVID, and the state has fully reopened, of course with COVID precautions still recommended. Childhood vaccinations are still catching up with pre-pandemic levels and we have work to do there. The main points I want to emphasize at this time are:

- We are ***back to normal regarding enforcement of school immunization requirements*** that were distributed in May, and available at <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/idb/imp/sreq/>. The only caveat is that a required vaccine may be postponed to allow for choice if COVID-19 vaccine is administered. The required vaccine will be considered “in progress” and the student may be admitted to school provisionally for up to 60 days.
- There are many ***Back-to-School vaccine events*** and activities that we hope our schools and families will take advantage of:
  - On-site school vaccine sites can be requested and set up subject to availability of staffing. Contact your local Public Health Office or use our event request form at: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/vaccination-site-request-form.html>
  - “Got Shots” <https://hsc.unm.edu/about/administrative-departments/community-health/programs/nmic/got-shots.html> has many free, walk-in clinics.
  - Most Public Health Offices offer both childhood vaccinations and COVID vaccinations. Call for walk-in times or appointments
  - Many pharmacies are offering COVID vaccine only (not other childhood vaccines) for children 12 and up from July 15 to August 15.

Thanks for keeping our schools safe!

Sincerely,



David R. Scrase, M.D.  
Acting Cabinet Secretary  
New Mexico Department of Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**