



Amherst Central School District

Anthony J. Panella
Superintendent

Jeffrey Wheaton
Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On June 13, 2019, Governor Cuomo signed legislation removing non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements for children. As a result, there is no longer a religious exemption to the requirements that children be vaccinated against measles and other diseases to attend public, private or parochial school (students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade). The law is effective immediately.

Any students that were previously granted an immunization exemption based on their religious beliefs are no longer valid, and no new exemptions of this nature will be considered or granted. Currently, the only basis upon which a child may be exempt from immunization is a certification by a licensed physician in New York State, stating that there is a medical reason why the child should not be immunized.

Additionally, this means that all children, other than those who qualify for a medical exemption, **must show proof of immunization** against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, pertussis, tetanus and (where applicable by grade level) haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), meningococcal disease, and pneumococcal disease **prior to attending school**. These new immunization requirements will apply to all 2019 ACSD summer programs, athletic programs beginning in mid August 2019, and enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year beginning this September. **Any child without proof of required immunizations by 8/28 will not be permitted to attend school on 9/3.**

Where a child has not received the full course of immunizations, they will be admitted to school if it is demonstrated that they have had at least the first dose in each immunization series required by law and they have age appropriate appointments to complete the immunization series.

To verify that your child has met these new vaccination requirements, please contact your child's health care provider. For additional information about this new law visit our website at <https://www.amherstschools.org/immunizations>. Updated medical paperwork can be delivered to your child's respective school throughout the Summer. Our nursing staff will begin to review all documents on August 27th.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wheaton

Jeff Wheaton
Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics