

**CHESTER COUNTY
INTERMEDIATE
UNIT 24**

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: IMMUNIFICATION AND
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

ADOPTED: JUNE 15, 2011

REVISED: OCTOBER 21, 2020

203. IMMUNIZATIONS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

<u>Policy Section</u>	<u>Policy Description</u>
1. Purpose	<p>The Board shares with its member school districts a responsibility to promote a healthy learning environment and to safeguard the welfare of all students and staff.</p>
2. Authority	<p>In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that this policy and the adopted policy of the school district of residence concerning communicable diseases and immunization shall be followed for school-age students admitted from that district into Intermediate Unit programs.</p> <p>Legal Reference: SC 1303a, Title 28; Sec. 23.81 et seq</p>
2. Definitions	<p>Certificate of Immunization - The official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The certificate is filled out by the parent/guardian or health care provider and signed by the health care provider, public health official or school nurse or a designee. The certificate is given to the school as proof of full immunization. The school maintains the certificate as the official school immunization record or stores the details of the record in a computer database.</p> <p>Medical Certificate - The official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health setting out the immunization plan for a student who is not fully immunized, filled out and signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, or by a public health official when the immunization is provided by the Department of Health or a local health department, and given to a school as proof that the student is scheduled to complete the required immunizations.</p> <p>Legal Reference: Title 28; Sec. 23.82</p>
3. Authority	<p>The Board endorses the concept that community engagement is essential for the Intermediate Unit, member school districts, and the community to maintain mutual understanding, respect and trust, and to work together to improve the quality of education for students. The Board intends, through this two-way communication, to identify the community's concerns, needs and suggestions, and to be responsive to</p>

	<p>the community through the Board's actions.</p> <p>The Board also recognizes that the public offers resources of training and experience useful to Intermediate Unit programs. The quality of the Intermediate Unit's operations, programs and services can be strengthened when these resources are used in an advisory capacity.</p> <p>The Board, with assistance from the administration, shall determine the appropriate strategy when utilizing the community engagement process.</p> <p>The Board, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall identify a team of individuals who will be responsible for developing, implementing and delivering a community engagement program.</p> <p>After the community engagement process is concluded, the Board shall make the final decision regarding an issue.</p> <p>The Board shall annually assess the effectiveness of the community engagement program.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Board directs the administration to develop and implement a planned program of community engagement that regularly provides opportunities for students, parents/guardians, families, residents, businesses and community organizations to participate in dialogue and decision-making related to issues presented by the Intermediate Unit.</p> <p>The administration shall develop and use varied, effective communication methods to ensure that all community members receive information about Intermediate Unit programs and the available opportunities to become actively involved.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Immunization</u></p> <p>All students shall be immunized against specific diseases in accordance with state law and regulations, unless specifically exempt for religious/philosophical/ethical or medical reasons.</p> <p>A certificate of immunization shall be maintained by the district of residence as part of the health record for each student, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A copy of the health record shall be submitted to the Intermediate Unit upon a student's enrollment in an Intermediate Unit program.</p> <p>A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious/philosophical/ethical grounds or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization.</p> <p>A student who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend Intermediate Unit programs, unless exempted</p>

for medical or religious reasons or provisionally admitted by the Executive Director, in consultation with the district of residence, after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and submitting proof of immunization or a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day of attendance.

Homeless students who have not been immunized or are unable to provide immunization records due to being homeless shall be admitted in accordance with the provisions of applicable law and regulations.

Foster care students and students transferring into a school within the Commonwealth shall be admitted in accordance with law and regulations, and shall have thirty (30) days to provide proof of immunization, a medical certificate detailing the plan to complete a multiple dose vaccine series or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.

Where applicable, the Executive Director or designee shall report immunization data electronically to the Department of Health by December 31 of each year. If the Intermediate Unit is unable to complete the report electronically, the Executive Director or designee shall report the immunization data on the required form to the Department of Health by December 15. The Executive Director or designee shall develop and implement administrative regulations regarding communicable diseases and immunization requirements for all students in specialized Intermediate Unit programs.

Legal Reference: SC 1303a; Title 28, Sec. 23.81 et seq, Sec. 23.82

Communicable Diseases

The Board directs Intermediate Unit staff to review each diagnosed case of communicable disease to determine how the affected student's educational needs can be met and how to protect the health and welfare of students and staff with whom s/he may come in contact.

Students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse may be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions. Exclusions of students shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law and regulations, and in consultation with the local health department and applicable physicians.

The school nurse or designated Intermediate Unit staff shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the Department of Health.

The Executive Director or designee shall direct that health guidelines and universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases be implemented in Intermediate Unit programs

References:	<p>Legal Reference: SC 1409; Title 28, Sec. 27.71, 27.72</p> <p><u>Health Records</u></p> <p>All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent/guardian.</p> <p>Legal Reference: SC 1409</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1303a, 1402, 1409 State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 4.29, 11.20 State Department of Health Regulations – 28 PA Code Sec. 23.81 et seq., 23.82, 23.83, 23.84, 23.85, 23.86, 27.1, 27.2, 27.23, 27.71, 27.72, 27.77 Board Policy – 000, 103.1, 113, 204, 209, 251</p> <p>NOTE: List of required immunizations can be found at 28 PA Code Sec. 23.83 - revised immunization requirements take effect for the 2017-2018 school year.</p>
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