



Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 307 | Washington, DC 20004

Dear Private School Leaders,

As we start a new school year, I am grateful to each of you for your tireless work to ensure our students have a strong start. Like we did last year, we will continue to invest in supporting a safe reopening and student health and safety so that all children can remain in school, where they learn best. As we all know, this school year is especially important as we continue our shared work to recover and provide additional, targeted supports to our students with the greatest need.

One of the most important aspects of keeping students safe and healthy in school is through immunizations. With your help, the District has made a concerted and coordinated effort across our city to ensure families have access to vaccinations and know about our immunization enforcement policy, as required by District law, for all students in DC schools.

I am writing to share updated guidance that we conveyed today to public school leaders regarding the enforcement timeline of the Immunization Attendance Policy for routine pediatric immunizations and the COVID-19 vaccine during the 2022-23 school year. To reduce the number of students who could be excluded from school at any one time, and to align schools and LEAs to one unified notification and exclusion timeline, we are implementing staggered enforcement based on grade band. This will also give families more time to secure any remaining missing immunizations and to engage with their primary care providers if they have questions, specifically for the COVID-19 vaccine that is new for many families this school year. Enforced immunizations include all routine pediatric immunizations and the COVID-19 vaccine for all students 12 and older.

Private, parochial, and independent schools are not required to comply with these enforcement timelines, but may choose to do so to align with DCPS and public charter schools' deadlines for families. The District's immunization laws apply to private, parochial, and independent schools, and these schools are welcome to follow these revised District-wide enforcement timelines.

		Official Notice Sent to Non-Compliant Students	First Date of Exclusion of Non-Compliant Students
Routine Pediatric Immunization	Pre-K 3 through Grade 5	September 7, 2022	Routine Pediatric Immunization
	Grades 6-12	October 3, 2022	November 4, 2022
COVID-19 Vaccination (For Students Age 12 and Older)		November 21, 2022	January 3, 2023

I urge you to continue working with your school health teams to reach out to your families who are missing vaccinations and connect them with resources to ensure their children fulfill this important requirement and submit the necessary immunization documentation to school. Throughout September and October, DC Health and our community-based partners will continue to offer expanded opportunities for families to access vaccinations. This includes offering thousands of vaccination-specific appointments at mobile immunization clinics at schools and community sites throughout the District. More information on these opportunities can be found on the [OSSE website](#) and at dchealth.dc.gov/immunizations.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please them submit to dme@dc.gov. Contact DC Health at doh.immunization@dc.gov for more information on pediatric immunization certification requirements, immunization data, pediatric immunization locations, and resources for accessing immunizations.

Thank you for all you are doing for our students and school communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Kihn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Kihn" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Kihn
Deputy Mayor for Education