



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

December 2, 2022

Dear LEA Leaders,

I want to thank you again for your leadership and tireless work on behalf of our students and families. I have been fortunate to visit several of your campuses and have relished the chance to see classrooms filled with joyful learning. I look forward to visiting more schools next year as well.

I am writing to you today with an update on the enforcement timeline for the Immunization Attendance Policy for routine pediatric immunizations covering students in grades 6-12. As you know, non-compliant middle and high school students who were sent initial notifications on October 3 were eligible for a grace period until December 2, and the first date of exclusion for these students were set to begin December 5.

Due to the sustained high numbers of non-compliant students in grades 6-12, DC Public Schools (DCPS) will be offering students and families additional time to make vaccination appointments and receive their required pediatric vaccinations. DCPS will direct families to make an appointment next week at one of the [high-capacity vaccination sites](#) operated by DC Health and Children's National. These high-capacity vaccination clinics are available to any student, and are open 8am – 4pm, Monday through Friday, at four sites across the District. Families should call 1-888-884-BEAR (2327) to make an appointment.

Therefore, full exclusions for non-compliant DCPS students will begin **Friday, December 16**. In an effort to align our schools, Charter LEAs should also take this additional time to direct families to make appointments at the high-capacity vaccination sites or with their medical provider. We strongly recommend that you encourage your families to take advantage of these temporary high-capacity vaccination sites while they are available.

We are proud of how our pre-K-5th grade families worked to get students up to date on vaccinations. Unfortunately, we have not yet seen the non-compliance rates in our upper grades decrease at the rate we experienced with our pre-K-5th grade students. We recognize the challenges in bringing this age range of students into compliance, and we want to take every measure to ensure no student has to miss school.

For questions on attendance protocols and managing attendance data, email OSSE.SchoolHealth@dc.gov. Contact DC Health at doh.immunization@dc.gov for information on immunization certification requirements, immunization data, immunization locations, and resources for accessing immunizations.

Thank you again for all your support in this effort.

Sincerely,

Paul Kihn

Deputy Mayor for Education