

## Changes in School Immunization Requirements for School Year 2023-24

DC Health has updated the definition of compliance with the school immunization requirement for the 2023-24 school year. This change is meant to simplify and streamline enforcement of this requirement.

### **Revised Compliance Definition**

The District of Columbia follows the immunization recommendations of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). As soon as a child is old enough that a vaccine is recommended, that vaccine is considered “due.” DC’s Immunization Information System (DOCIIS) provides information about which vaccines are currently due, as well as when vaccines will be due in the future.

DC Health has updated the definition of compliance with the school immunization requirements. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, **DC Health will no longer differentiate between “due” and “overdue” in the determination of compliance.** Under the new definition, once a student is due for a vaccine, that student is considered non-compliant.

As a result of this change in the definition of compliance, the number of students considered non-compliant will initially increase. However, these changes will simplify assessment of compliance and bring DC into closer alignment with other jurisdictions.

### **Limiting Temporary Exclusion.**

**In the 2023-24 school year, only non-compliant students in grades pre-K 3, Kindergarten, 7, and 11 will be eligible for temporary exclusion.** These grades were selected because they occur soon *after* age bands in which vaccines are first recommended. Most students in these grades will not “age into” non-compliance during the school year.

### **Example**

ACIP recommends that children receive their first dose of MenACWY at 11 or 12 years of age; in this age range, children are considered “due” for this vaccine. Previously children were considered non-compliant only after reaching their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is when the vaccine would be marked as “overdue”. As of April 14, 2023, children who have not received this vaccine will be considered non-compliant when they reach their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, while most children reach their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday during 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they will not face temporary exclusion from school until 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Two Immunization Points of Contact (IPOCs)**

Certain school-based staff are designated as Immunization Points of Contact (IPOCs), who can use the Immunization Compliance Portal to determine whether a child is compliant with the immunization mandate. In order to ensure continued access to compliance data in the event that one IPOC is out of the building, each school health team must have two IPOCs. If they have not done so already, schools should notify OSSE of their IPOCs and will be able to access training and other support materials [here](#).

If you have questions about the change in compliance definition, contact [doh.immunization@dc.gov](mailto:doh.immunization@dc.gov).

If you have questions about enforcement of the School Immunization Policy, contact [OSSE.schoolhealth@dc.gov](mailto:OSSE.schoolhealth@dc.gov).