NC DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND

HUMAN SER



ROY COOPER • Governor MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health Division of Public Health

August 2020

TO: North Carolina School Administrators, Nurses, Staff

FROM:	Marshall Tyson, Branch Head	Wendy Holmes, Branch Head
	Children and Youth Branch	Immunization Branch
	Division of Public Health	Division of Public Health

RE: Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting

All North Carolina public and public charter schools are required annually to report on the status of Health Assessments for those students who are enrolling for the first time in a North Carolina public or public charter school (§ 130A-441(c)), and the immunization status of all students in kindergarten, seventh grade, and effective August 1, 2020, twelfth grade (<u>G.S. 130A-155(c)</u>).

While families are strongly encouraged to obtain the required immunizations for their children as early as possible, a <u>State Health Director's Memo and Governor's Executive Order</u> delays but does not waive documentation deadlines for immunization and health assessment requirements, allowing for additional time to address access to care disruptions they many have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In typical years, proof of required immunizations and health assessments was required within 30 days of the first date of attendance of school, after which a student would have to be excluded from school until the parent/caregiver provided documentation of requirements. For the 20-21 school year, the State Health Director memo suspends the immunization requirements, effective August 11 through September 30, 2020. The Executive Order aligns school health assessments with the presentation of the certification of immunization. The immunization requirements will go back into effect on October 1 and include a 30-calendar day 'grace period' beginning on **October 1, 2020**. If a student does not have the appropriate documentation after that time, the student will have to be excluded from school (including in-person and remote learning) until compliant with the requirements.

Pursuant to Executive Order 156, NCDHHS will accept report submissions no later than **December 15**, **2020**, but may be completed at any time prior to that date and are now open.

A combined compliance report is available this year, by school name and ID number, and must be completed on-line at the following link:

## The Immunization and Health Assessment Survey

Instructions and work sheets are available for download at the report web address that may be used in

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 5601 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609 MAILING ADDRESS: 1928 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1928 www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5600 • FAX: 919-870-4880 advance to collect the data needed before entering your individual school information on-line. Questions regarding Health Assessments and the reporting process may be directed to your <u>Regional School Health</u> <u>Nurse Consultant or Ann Nichols, State School Health Nurse Consultant</u>. Immunization Report questions should be directed to Nikki Barbour at <u>Nikki.barbour@dhhs.nc.gov</u>.

Please ensure that this information is shared with appropriate staff members. Thank you for your support in these efforts to keep students healthy, in school and ready to learn.

Cc: Regional School Health Nurse Consultants Immunization Branch Consultants Dr. Ellen Essick, DPI Section Chief Dr. Kelly Kimple, DPH Section Chief