



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor  
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary  
ELIZABETH TILSON • State Health Director  
KELLY KIMPLE • Acting Director, Division of Public Health

October 8, 2024

TO: NC Schools, Universities, Colleges and Child Care Facilities

FROM: Elizabeth Tilson, MD, MPH  
State Health Director

RE: Temporary Suspension of Immunization and School Health Assessment Requirements  
due to Hurricane Helene

This letter serves as notification to inform you of a temporary suspension of immunization requirements specified in 10A N.C. Admin Code 41A .0401 through October 31, 2024. This will facilitate additional time for families to meet the immunization and school health assessment requirements due to potential barriers resulting from Hurricane Helene. This temporary suspension applies statewide to address the needs of families who are displaced from western North Carolina due to Hurricane Helene and accessing child care facilities, schools, colleges, and universities in other areas across the State. The temporary suspension of the immunization deadline is being issued pursuant to 10A N.C. Admin Code 41A .0401(c). Consistent with this temporary suspension:

**Additional Time to Complete Immunization Under G.S. 130A-155(a) and 130A-155.1(a)**

The time period for the temporary suspension, from the first day of attendance through October 31, 2024, inclusive, will not count towards the 30 calendar days following the child's first date of school or child care facility attendance that a parent, guardian or responsible person has to submit a certificate of immunization. This temporary suspension of time to complete immunization requirements also applies to individuals attending NC colleges and universities.

**Additional Time to Complete Health Assessment Under G.S. 130A-440(a)**

Pursuant to Executive Order 319, the requirements for presentation of the school health assessment for every NC child entering kindergarten or higher grade in public schools for the first time will align with the presentation of the certification of immunization. Therefore, the time period from the first day of attendance through October 31, 2024, inclusive, will not count towards the 30 calendar days following the child's first date of school attendance that the family has to submit proof of a health assessment.

**Additional Time to Submit Reports Under G.S. 130A-155, 130A-155.1, and 130A-441**

NCDHHS understands that the temporary suspension of these requirements may result in delayed submission of annual reports in accordance with G.S. 130A-155(c), G.S. 130A-155.1(c), and 130A-441(c). Given the situation, NCDHHS will accept submissions from schools and child care facilities until January 15, 2025, pursuant to Executive Order 319. Colleges and universities should follow previously issued guidance for submitting annual reports to NCDHHS.

Although the temporary suspension may provide additional time for families to get required immunizations and health assessments for schools in communities, we encourage all children to obtain the needed immunizations in accordance with G.S. 130A-152 and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices as early as possible.

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

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If you have any questions, please contact the on-call nurse for the Immunization Branch at 919-707-5575 or your school nurse consultant.