

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRACTICE

School nurse practice is subject to state boards of nursing regulations, federal, state, and local laws. School Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice are “expectations that guide the practice of school nursing” (2017, preface, ix). This document is meant as broad direction for school nurses’ practice. It has some key points on implementation that are not all inclusive and not meant to replace nurse’s decision-making or judgement.

OVERVIEW

School nurses play a vital role in primary prevention of disease in children. Millions of school days are lost each year for kindergarten through 12th-grade public school students in the United States because of infectious diseases. Schools inherently foster the transmission of infections from person to person because students and school staff are in a group setting with close contact. One of the most significant ways to protect a child from serious disease and infection is through immunization. Vaccines protect babies, children, and adults from 17 vaccine-preventable diseases. (CDC, 2019a). Although in the United States vaccine-preventable diseases are near an all-time low, bacteria and viruses still exist and can be fatal (USDHHS, 2020).

School-located vaccination (SLV) activities are among the most efficient ways to reach a large number of school-age students. School facilities are generally the largest space in communities and often used for vaccination clinics and other emergency response activities.

“School nurses are leaders who use evidence-based immunization strategies, such as School Located Vaccine (SLV) clinics, parent/guardian reminders about vaccine schedules, state immunization information systems (IIS), i.e., state registries, strong support of vaccination recommendations, and vaccine education for students, staff, and families” (NASN, 2020).

NATIONAL INFORMATION

National Association of School Nurses (NASN)

- [Immunizations NASN Practice Topic](#)
- [Immunization Transition Toolkit](#)
- [Keep Flu Out of School Tool Kit](#)
 - Unaccompanied Children Entering the U.S.
 - Sharing Information to Update Immunization Records
 - Adolescent Immunizations
- [Preparing for a School Located Covid 19 Vaccine Clinic](#) (podcast)
- NASN Position Statement: [School Located Vaccination](#)

Original Document: 2019

Update: 2021

MDE/MDHHS

Michigan School Health: IMMUNIZATIONS

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

- [Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Disease \(Principles of Vaccination\)](#)
- [CDC Fact Sheets - Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Vaccines and Immunization Schedules](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Changes in Vaccine Schedule](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics – Communicating With Parents](#)

Federal Laws

<p>§ 164.512(b)(1) Vol. 78 NO.17 2013</p>	<p>Covered entities will still be required to obtain agreement, which may be oral, from a parent, guardian or other person acting in loco parentis for the individual, or from the individual himself or herself, if the individual is an adult or emancipated minor. The option to provide oral agreement for the disclosure of student immunization records will relieve burden on parents, schools, and covered entities, and greatly facilitate the role that schools play in public health, while still giving parents the opportunity to consider whether to agree to the disclosure of this information. Documentation is required but rule does not prescribe the nature of the documentation and does not require signature by the parent.</p>
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MICHIGAN SPECIFIC INFORMATION

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#)

- [Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan Schools](#)
- [MDHHS Michigan Waiver Information](#)

Michigan Laws

<p>§ 333.9205</p>	<p>Requires that a parent/guardian of a child provide for the child's immunization by an authorized health professional, physician, local health department, clinic, or other agency offering immunizations for diseases and within an age period prescribed by the department.</p>
<p>§ 333.9208</p>	<p>A parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a school and a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of a child entering the sixth grade, shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school, a certificate of immunization or statement of exemption.</p>
<p>§ 333.9215</p>	<p>Immunization exemption requirements.</p>
<p>§ 380.1177</p>	<p>The parent/guardian of a child enrolling in school for the first time must submit a certificate showing required immunizations have been given; or a physician-signed waiver that required immunizations could not be given</p>

Michigan School Health: IMMUNIZATIONS

	because of medical contradictions or a parent/guardian signed waiver that for religious or other reasons the immunization has not been given.
§ 333.9209	Schools are required to report their students' immunization status to their local health departments.
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act	The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that Michigan schools must adhere to which ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. This Act requires schools to enroll homeless children and youth immediately, even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.
§ 333.9206	A parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis applying to have a child registered for the first time in a school in this state and, beginning January 1, 2014, a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of a child entering the seventh grade, shall present to school officials, at the time of registration or not later than the first day of school, a certificate of immunization or statement of exemption. A teacher or principal shall not permit a child to enter or attend school unless a certificate indicating that a minimum of 1 dose of an immunizing agent against each of the diseases specified by the department has been received and certified to by a health professional or local health department. A parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis having a child registered with only these minimum doses of immunizing agents shall present an updated certificate of immunization within 4 months after initial attendance showing that the immunizations have been completed as prescribed by the department.
Michigan Communicable Disease Rules	Requires any parent/guardian who claims a nonmedical waiver to receive education regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease from a county health department before obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver form through the Local Health Department. The new rule requires the use of the State of Michigan nonmedical waiver form dated January 1, 2015.

SCHOOL NURSE CONSIDERATIONS

Immunizations are an important part of primary prevention in the battle against communicable diseases. School nurses provide both individual and population health through their daily access to large numbers of students, making them well positioned to address and coordinate the health care needs of children and adolescents.

Michigan School Health: IMMUNIZATIONS

According to Boyer-Chu and Yonkaitis, it is essential for school nurses to be knowledgeable about state regulations concerning the vaccine schedule, how vaccines work, the diseases they prevent, school district and local health department exclusion and exemption policies. The school nurse must also be knowledgeable about how to handle missing vaccine records, in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

School nurses may use state registries to facilitate immunization compliance, identify the immunization status of students in the event of disease outbreaks, and prevent duplication of vaccinations when records have been lost, destroyed, or misplaced.

School districts may designate school personnel to be responsible for immunizations including MCIR activities such as input into MCIR, tracking immunizations, letters to parents, and consult with the school nurse when questions/problems arise. In other situations, the school nurse is responsible for immunization follow up and compliance.

Monitoring/Compliance: The state of Michigan has laws to protect children and the community from communicable disease and requires certain vaccines be obtained for students entering schools. A new administrative rule by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in 2015 allows parents/guardians to have the opportunity to speak with a health educator from their local health department about their concerns and questions regarding immunizations prior to the nonmedical waiver being signed.

Any parent/guardian who wants to claim a nonmedical waiver will need to receive education regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease from a county health department before obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver form through the Local Health Department. The new rule requires the use of the State of Michigan [nonmedical waiver](#) form dated January 1, 2019.

Documentation: The Michigan Care Improvement Registry ([MCIR](#)) is a centralized immunization registry. The program tracks immunizations that were given and stores them in an online database that is viewable by authorized users. The benefit of this type of electronic documentation is that it keeps records of immunizations in a centralized location which provides for more accurate and complete data collection. MCIR allows physicians or health department to print an immunization record or a parent can request a copy by completing the form located in the “Public” section (MCIR, 2021).

In case of a communicable disease outbreak, the school nurse should consider having a list of students who are susceptible to disease due to lack of immunizations in order to contact school officials and parent(s) regarding student exclusion (Boyer-Chu & Yonkaitis, 2019).

Resources: Access for many students to immunizations is a challenge. The school nurse is instrumental in assisting families to obtain access to care to receive vaccines. Vaccination is

usually covered by insurance or can be received at no cost to children from low-income families through a federally funded program, Vaccines for Children (CDC, 2016). The program reduces barriers for under insured or uninsured, but for some families the challenge may be knowledge of where to go to receive vaccines or securing transportation to get there.

Education: School nurses have a primary role in educating people on current and accurate facts. As health educators they provide current and evidence-based information to parents/guardians on vaccine safety, specific diseases and respond to parents concerns for refusal of immunizations (multiple vaccines at one time, religious beliefs, and side effects). As health advocates, they dispel myths and misinformation obtained over the internet or portrayed in the media that may create parental questions or fear and increase the public's confidence. The goal is to educate, motivate and prepare parents about the importance of not only the required but other recommended immunizations. School nurses are also a resource for school districts and the community regarding communicable disease prevention and health law requirements.

Surveillance

School nurses are well-versed in the importance of deterring and eliminating vaccine preventable diseases and the concerns that are unique to their school community (NASN, 2018). School nurses have acute assessment skills that allow them identify early signs of infectious disease and respond quickly. School nurses are the front line of defense for many chronic and acute health care issues in the community, providing a vital link between the school and the public health community.

School located vaccine clinics (SLV): Immunization rates can be improved by taking advantage of the reliable position of school nurses and schools to establish SLV's. The school nurse understands the needs of the community and school. School nurses are:

- experienced in collaborating with community partners, including local and state public health departments, school officials, other nurses, teachers, emergency planning experts, child health groups, families, community leaders, and local healthcare providers. The school and public health partnership is a familiar model for the delivery of health care in many communities. This collaboration is key to successful SLV.
- aware of the health status of students and thus able to mitigate possible contraindications for vaccines.
- knowledgeable of the implications of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) related to recording and sharing immunization records (NASN, 2020).

School nurses often coordinate and facilitate the event, including administration of vaccines.

References:

Boyer-Chu, L, & Yonkaitis, C. (2019). Disease Prevention in Schools. In V. Taliaferro & C. Resha *School nursing: A comprehensive text* (pp. 320-334).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019a). Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommend child and adolescent immunization schedule for 18 or younger United States, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). *Vaccine for children program*. [VFC | Home | Vaccines for Children Program | CDC](#)

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United States Department of Health and Human Services. (2020). *Vaccines by disease*. [Vaccines by Disease | Vaccines](#)

Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) [Influenza School-Located Vaccination \(SLV\): Information for Planning](#).

Rogers, K. (2019). Immunization Noncompliance: Gauging the cause, effect, and management in the school setting. *NASN School Nurse*, vol. 34, 3: pp. 140-144. , First Published April 2, 2019.

Rose, K. (2017). Latest recommendation addressing barriers and improving vaccine rates. *NASN School Nurse*, vol. 32, 4: pp. 217-222. , First Published July 3, 2017.

School Nursing: A Comprehensive Text – Selekman, Shannon, Yonkaitis

School Nurse Resource Manual – Evidenced Based Guide to Practice -Taliaferro, Resha Taliaferro, Resha

Talking to Parents about Vaccine-Information for Healthcare Professionals. [Educating Parents or Patients about Vaccines | CDC](#)

Parents Guide to Childhood Immunizations FAQ, [Parents Guide to Childhood Immunizations | Questions Answered | CDC](#)