

Neshannock Memorial Elementary School

3832 Mitchell Road
New Castle, PA 16105-1093

NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT ALERT

Attention parents with children entering kindergarten at Neshannock Memorial Elementary:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is changing school immunization regulations beginning in August 2017. You were permitted to register your child with incomplete immunizations (we understand that some shots may not be administered until the child turns five years old), but please note the following information regarding immunization status and official enrollment at Neshannock Memorial Elementary.

*Starting with the 2017/2018 school year, students will not be officially enrolled until we have a record verifying that they have received **all** of the required immunizations. This complete vaccine record **MUST** be turned in to the elementary school by August 15, 2017. Please plan accordingly so that you have time to see your child's pediatrician for the necessary vaccines.

*Due to insurance regulations, your child might not be scheduled for his or her next wellness exam prior to the August 15th deadline. If that is the case, you may need to ask for an earlier appointment for immunizations on a separate date if necessary. You will need to call your pediatrician's office to share this information with them. If you have difficulty with scheduling, or are underinsured and have concerns with cost, the Pennsylvania Department of Health in New Castle offers immunization clinic dates. You may call them at 724-656-3088 for more information.

*If you turn in your child's complete and updated vaccine record over the summer, please place the updated record in an envelope addressed to Heather Collins, School Nurse. Ask the office staff to place it in my mailbox. Another option is to scan the record and email me the file as an attachment. I recommend that you keep a copy for your own records. My email address is hcollins@ntsd.org. Please call me if you have any questions regarding these changes.

Students need the following immunizations by August 15, 2017:

- 4 doses of - DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis -- 1 dose on or after 4th birthday);
- 4 doses of - IPV (polio -- 4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given);
- 2 doses of - MMR (measles, mumps, rubella);
- 3 doses of - hepatitis B;
- 2 doses of - varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or evidence of immunity.

The only exemptions to the school laws for immunizations are: medical reasons, religious beliefs, philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Statements of exemption must be provided in writing. If your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be removed from school during an outbreak.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Collins

Mrs. Heather Collins, MSN, RN, CSN
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