



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TO:** College Health Services and Administrative Personnel

**FROM:** Mick Bolduc  
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Connecticut Immunization Program

**DATE:** April 26, 2010

**SUBJECT:** New College Immunization Requirements-Clarification Update

On February 1, 2010 you received a communication from the Immunization Program regarding the new college immunization requirements that will go into effect this fall. Beginning August 1, 2010, in accordance with Section 10a-155 of the Connecticut general statutes, all full time or matriculating students will be required to demonstrate proof of adequate immunization against measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) and varicella as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP). Several questions have been raised concerning the interpretation of these new requirements. The following updated information should help clarify which students are affected and what documentation is required for enrollment. A copy of the statute is available at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap185b.htm#Sec10a-155.htm>

### **Full Time/Matriculating Students**

The new requirements will affect all full time students as well as all matriculating students. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Part time non-matriculating students are **not required** to have MMR and varicella immunizations although they are **recommended** to have those vaccines by ACIP.

### **MMR Vaccine**

Beginning August 1, 2010 **all incoming freshman** will be required to show proof of 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. The doses should be separated by at least 28 days with dose number one given on or after the first birthday. Exemptions to this requirement include:

1. Individuals born before January 1, 1957,
2. Laboratory confirmation of immunity to such disease,
3. Documentation from a physician stating that the student is medically contraindicated from receiving such vaccine,
4. Documentation from the student that such an immunization is contrary to his/her religious beliefs,
5. Documentation from a physician or director of health that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease,
6. Enrollment in a distance-learning program conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting without other students present.

### **Graduation from a Connecticut high school in 1999 or later**

The provision in the statute regarding “**Graduation from Connecticut high school in 1999**” **does not apply to the new 2 dose Mumps and Rubella requirement**. Current high school immunization entry requirements for enrollment only mandate that students need 1 dose of mumps and 1 dose of rubella vaccines. Although most students have probably received the MMR combination vaccine to meet the two dose measles requirement, you cannot automatically assume that graduation from a state high school translates into all students having received a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of rubella and mumps vaccines. College Health Service personnel must still review student immunization records to ensure that all incoming freshman are in compliance with the new immunization requirements prior to enrollment.

### **Varicella Vaccine**

Beginning August 1, 2010 **all incoming freshman** will be required to show proof of 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. The doses should be separated by at least 28 days with dose number one given on or after the first birthday. Exemptions to this requirement include:

1. Individuals born in the United States before January 1, 1980,
2. Laboratory confirmation of immunity to such disease,
3. Documentation from a physician stating that the student is medically contraindicated from receiving such vaccine,
4. Documentation from the student that such an immunization is contrary to his/her religious beliefs,
5. Documentation from a physician or director of health that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease,
6. Enrollment in a distance-learning program conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting without other students present.

### **Graduation from a Connecticut high school in 1999 or later does NOT apply to varicella vaccine.**

Adequate evidence of immunity and the exemptions noted above are consistent with the ACIP varicella recommendations. Parental or self-report of history of varicella disease is no longer considered acceptable evidence of immunity, as naturally occurring infection has declined dramatically and clinical illness has become more difficult to recognize. The full ACIP recommendations for prevention of varicella are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5604a1.htm>.

Enclosed is a DRAFT copy of the 2010 survey summary form so you can adequately prepare to collect the necessary data come this fall.

As always if you have any questions, please free feel to contact my office at (860) 509-7929.