

Policy 2.10 - Required Immunization for Children Attending Daycare

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to the Regional Health Authorities on the documentation required to comply with Sections 12(2) and 12(3) of the *Reporting and Diseases Regulation* under the *Public Health Act* pertaining to children attending a licensed daycare centre in New Brunswick.

Preamble: Since 1982, New Brunswick legislation has required proof of immunization against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus and polio as a condition of school entry.

In November 2009, the *Public Health Act* was proclaimed. This legislation has expanded the requirements for school children and now includes a requirement for all children who attend a daycare centre to demonstrate proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, measles, rubella, mumps, varicella, meningococcal disease, *haemophilus influenzae* type B disease and pneumococcal disease.

Changes to the requirements reflect advancements in the science of vaccine preventable diseases, the availability of new vaccines and the inclusion of these vaccines into the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule.

Immunization requirements are in place to ensure the maximum level of disease protection afforded by vaccines. Infants and pre-school children are at considerable risk of complications from vaccine preventable diseases. Measures to ensure optimum immunization are essential in preventing serious consequences in these children.

Exemptions from legislated immunization requirements are permitted for medical reasons or if the parent or legal guardian objects to immunization.

Policy: The immunization status of children attending a daycare centre (as defined in New Brunswick Regulation 83-85 under the *Family Services Act*) will be assessed to ensure proof of immunization and provide a catch-up opportunity for all those children not immunized in early infancy.

Standards:

1. Immunization records of infants and pre-schoolers attending daycare centres will be assessed by the appropriate regional health authority, Public Health service.
2. Immunization records of children who attend after-school daycare programs will be assessed at school entry in compliance with RDR 2009-136,12 (1). It must be understood, that although not required for the purposes of this policy, immunization records of school-age children who attend a daycare centre may be assessed as part of a communicable disease response.
3. Proof of immunization will be determined by examination of the child's immunization record. The record will be assessed to determine documentation of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, measles, rubella, mumps, varicella, meningococcal disease, *haemophilus influenzae* type B disease and pneumococcal disease as per the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule, or as per a prescribed schedule for those not immunized in early infancy **AND** in conjunction with the current eligibility criteria for publicly funded vaccine in New Brunswick.
4. Acceptable schedules for those not immunized in early infancy are those prescribed by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and described in the most current edition of the *Canadian Immunization Guide*, <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php>.
5. In cases where children have not been immunized according to the New Brunswick Routine Immunization Schedule, refer to Appendix 4.4 - An Assessment Tool to Determine the Validity of Vaccine Doses.
6. A record of immunization will include the following information:
 - a. the name and birth date of the individual;
 - b. the Medicare number of the individual;

- c. the name of the disease/s immunized against or the name of the product used to immunize the individual;
 - d. the date on which the individual was immunized; and
 - e. the name of the person or clinic where the individual was immunized.
7. Proof of immunization is not required if the parent/legal guardian of the child provides:
 - a. a medical exemption signed by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner on a form provided by the Minister; or
 - b. a written statement of his or her objections to the immunization(s) required by the Minister, signed by a parent/legal guardian on a form provided by the Minister.
 8. A record of immunization or an *Immunization Exemption Form for Day Care* (Appendix 4.1.3) will be provided to the appropriate regional health authority, Public Health service, by the operator of a daycare centre.
 9. In the event a child has not received the required immunizations and does not present an Immunization Exemption Form for Day Care, the child's immunizations will be initiated within 120 days and be completed according to the schedule prescribed by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and described in the most current edition of the Canadian Immunization Guide.
 10. Relevant sections of *Public Health Act* and the *Reporting and Diseases Regulation – Immunization of Children*, Section 12(2) and 12(3) can be found through the intranet under Acts and Regulations or directly at <http://www.gnb.ca/0062/PDF-acts/p-22-4.pdf>.

Reporting requirements:

On June 30th of each year, the Regional Health Authorities' Public Health Service will submit the daycare immunization spreadsheet to the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.