The questions asked and addressed in this document were those that were provided to IDPH staff during the live webinar held on August 16, 2018.

Dental Questions

Regarding 9th grade dentals going into effect on 1/1/19. Does this mean they will need them on May 15th 2019 or does this go into effect for the new school year? Thanks!

- It goes into effect for the new school year – the 2019/2020 school year. They do not need them on May 15, 2019.

If you have a student repeated kindergarten, do they need a dental exam when they enter 2nd grade or the year before (because they are a year behind everyone else)?

- Mandated grades/age for dental examinations are kindergarten, 2nd and 6th.
- Effective 1/01/2019, 9th graders will be added to the mandated grades for dental examinations.
- If the student repeats a grade he has already entered Kindergarten, so we would not need a new exam.
- They would be due again upon entering 2nd grade.
- The dates in the rules were set so the exam is valid for 18 months. Part of the reasoning was so the dental exams that 4-year-old children received through the Head Start Program would be valid for their Kindergarten exams. So if a child is entering a grade (K, 2, 6, or 9) for the second time, it’s likely that the exam would fall within the 18 month timeframe. The Department did not specifically address children repeating grades in the rules. If a child is entering a grade (K, 2, 6, or 9) for the second time, and the exam falls within the 18-month timeframe, they do not need to obtain another examination until the next grade level when the dental examination is required.

Diabetes Questions

Diabetes screen needing to be completed by provider for compliance:

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, advanced practice nurses who have a written collaborative agreement with a physician which authorizes them to perform health examinations, or physician assistants who have been delegated the performance of health examinations by their supervising physician shall be responsible for the performance of the health examination and shall sign all school health examination report forms.
- Results of the diabetes risk assessment must be documented on the Certificate of Child Health Examination Form. Schools will be cited if diabetes risk assessment is not documented on mandated school physicals.

Is a nurse allowed to assess for signs of insulin resistance, or must it be done by the health care provider who does the physical?

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, advanced practice nurses who have a written collaborative agreement with a physician which authorizes them to perform health examinations, or physician assistants who have been delegated the performance of health examinations by their supervising physician shall be responsible for the performance of the health examination and shall sign all school health examination report forms.
• Results of the diabetes risk assessment must be documented on the Certificate of Child Health Examination Form. Beginning school year 2006-7, schools will be cited if diabetes risk assessment is not documented on mandated school physicals.

**Immunization Questions**

We have a transfer 5th grader who has only one IVP and no OPV. Would he still need to get two IVP’s.

• These and other questions related to specific schedules should be sent to the IDPH Immunization Section immunization consultants. Janet Daniels @Janet.Daniel@illinois.gov can assist with these specific questions.

Did you say that Menevo is not acceptable for 6th grade?

• For the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) requirement, there are 2 manufacturers Menactra and Menevo. Both brand names are acceptable. Men-B (Bexsero or Trumenba) does not meet MenACWY requirements.

Is the 4-day rule acceptable for the MenACWY vaccine for grade 12 entry, i.e. 4 days before the 16th birthday?

• The 4 day grace period is acceptable for all immunizations, except for between 2 live virus vaccines. So the 4 day grace period would be acceptable for the MenACWY 4 days prior to the 16th birthday.

Beginning with what school year did 4 day grace period apply?

• For school year 2018-2019, the 4-day grace period would apply to students in Preschool/kindergarten through 12th grade.

Just to clarify, the only immunizations that IDPH reviews are those on an alternate schedule?

• IDPH Immunization staff reviews records that deal with proof of immunity, which may include alternate schedule

Have noticed a “form letter” for religious exemption that we get, all say same thing when we feel that is likely not the true reason. What does state say about that?

• As of October 16, 2015 students submitting religious exemptions are required to use the CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION Form. The local school authority is responsible for determining if the content of the Certificate of Religious Exemption constitutes a valid religious objection.

If a student is not vaccinated for MMR and Varicella due to taking an immunosuppressant, do you need an updated doctor note every year?

• A medical objection/contraindication is updated every time a health exam is required.

If a student is entering high school in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade and hasn't had a MCV, do they have to have one to comply?

Are we still grandfathering in MCV4's given after the 10th birthday?

• For school year 2018-2019 students in 7th, 8th and 9th grade would be considered as compliant for the meningococcal conjugate vaccine requirement. Students in 6th grade, the requirement states on or after the 11th birthday. If there is an indication for earlier vaccination (between
ages 10 and 11), then the provider submits a letter/statement stating the reasons and provide that with the vaccine records (Section 665.280):

- Letter/statement to be honored by School Health Authorities and NOT submitted to IDPH for review.
- School year 2018-2019 students in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th grade must have at least 1 dose of MenACWY vaccine.

Regarding preschool, we have a Preschool within a high school class, a teacher is in charge and her high school students are learning teaching and development. What is the requirements for immunizations of these teachers/student teachers.

- PA 099-0267 (225 ILCS 10/4.6 new) Sec. 4.6. Vaccination requirements for employees. No person may be employed by a child care facility that cares for children ages 6 and under unless that person shows proof of having received: (i) one dose of the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine; and (ii) 2 doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine or shows proof of immunity to MMR. Effective Date: 1/1/2016

What if they are in 5th grade and have a personal objection form (not a religious hand written one)?

- In Illinois the only two exemptions are Medical and Religious; personal, moral, philosophical or constitutional objections are not allowed.
- If a current 5th grader has a hand written religious objection signed by parent, at this time it would meet requirements; upon entering 6th grade next year, the parents will need to submit current Religious Exemption Form signed by parent and health care provider.

Do you need a new religious exemption form if the student is new to the state?

- If the student is entering a grade at which the Religious Exemption form is required, the state Religious Exemption Form is required if claiming the exemption. If not in the grades K, 6 and 9, either the state form or some other documentation of religious objection, subject to local school authority, is required until the next time the student enters a grade level at which the state-specific form is required.

What if a parent refuses to sign the religious exemption form? They are stating that the statement goes against their religious beliefs, and their God will not allow them to sign it.

- The “local school authority” determines whether a request to waive immunizations or examinations based on religious beliefs meets state requirements. The statement is of a religious objection to vaccines, not a religious objection to signatures. The parents must write their objection and sign the portion that acknowledges they know what they are submitting to, particularly acknowledgment that their student might be excluded if a specific disease outbreak to which the student is not immunized would occur. Without completion of the form, the local school authority would be supported in denying the exemption as written, and excluding the student.

**Infectious Disease Questions**

I do hope that this Communicable Diseases chart always shows the updated date (previously on the last page).

- The chart will have the most current date on the last page when downloaded from the website. If while using the document you note any broken web links, please advise and we will get them repaired.
Even though a physical is required for only certain grades, do we still need to see immunization records for new incoming students from other Illinois schools?

- Students who are transferring in from other Illinois schools are not considered transfer students BUT it would be good practice to review and double check the health exam and immunizations for those students.

What do we do if parents don't give us the reportable illness issue in the reportable time frame?

- Since reporting is mandatory, it is reportable when you become aware as parents and individuals in the community do not have general knowledge of what is reportable and the timeframes. It may help if you provide them with an overview of their responsibility to assist you in reporting by providing symptoms/diagnosis etc., when calling their child off from school.

**Lead Questions**

Does the physician have to mark the TB skin or blood test to be compliant for a 6th grade physical?

- This is not a required component for 6th grade as the age is 6 months through 6 years.
- Per Illinois law, “Each day care center, day care home, preschool, nursery school, kindergarten, or other child care facility, licensed or approved by the State, including such programs operated by a public school district, shall include a requirement that each parent or legal guardian for children age 6 months through 6 years enrolled in licensed or public school operated day care, preschool, nursery school and/or kindergarten provide a statement from a physician or health care provider that the child has been evaluated for risk of lead poisoning or tested or both as provided in section 6.2.”
- Questions should be addressed to the IDPH, Lead Program at (217) 557-4519.

Lead screen needing to be completed by provider for compliance?

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches, advanced practice nurses who have a written collaborative agreement with a physician which authorizes them to perform health examinations, or physician assistants who have been delegated the performance of health examinations by their supervising physician shall be responsible for the performance of the health examination and shall sign all school health examination report forms.
- Per Illinois law, “Each day care center, day care home, preschool, nursery school, kindergarten, or other child care facility, licensed or approved by the State, including such programs operated by a public school district, shall include a requirement that each parent or legal guardian for children age 6 months through 6 years enrolled in licensed or public school operated day care, preschool, nursery school and/or kindergarten provide a statement from a physician or health care provider that the child has been evaluated for risk of lead poisoning or tested or both as provided in section 6.2.

Is a new lead screening required on a kindergarten physical if the child previously had one on the preschool health exam?

- Exams must be completed within one year prior to the first entrance to the required grade.
- Not knowing whether the child has moved from PS to K, it should be completed.

Would like to see lead screen available on I-CARE to check if ever done.
The IDPH Lead Program has been in discussion with the Immunizations Program and I-CARE is on their radar.

School Health Exam Questions

Can a CMA sign to verify immunization history? Do they count as an "other health official"?

- The immunization history portion of the form can be signed by a physician, nurse in a physician’s office, school nurse, record keeper in the school, physician office or clinic, (includes CMA, MOA, etc.), local health agency, etc. A local health department stamp is acceptable for verifying the immunization history portion of the health form. The verification date must be included.

Many Foreign Exchange physicals come without TB clearance. Do we expect that to be complete from foreign countries?

- If not on the Illinois Form, it must include all the elements the State of Illinois requires.
- Once enrolled, they are required to have the same health exams, screenings and services as any other enrolled student.
- ISBE has had discussions with the largest foreign exchange student program in the state to see if they could provide the correct form to the students that they selected for travel, and have their home country doctor fill it out. They previously agreed to include it in the packet for the students to fill out before arrival.
- If you’re having issues, provide the contact for the person at their foreign exchange student program, and we will work with them to provide the correct form.

Question concerning Health Examination dates. A Pre-K student had a physical on Aug. 14, 2017 and their 1st day of school is not until August 16th, 2018. Does the new Pre-K student need to have another physical due to it being over a year even though it is only 2 days past the one-year mark?

- State law says "within one year". State officials have determined that one year is 365 days, so in this case, the exam was completed greater than 365 days prior to entry to school and must be repeated.

Please clarify the acceptable "within one year" date of physical exam. Our district always used the month / day of the first day of school. For example, if school started 8/15/18 this year, then an exam dated 8/15/17 was accepted because the exam would have been performed at 9 am or later on 8/15/17, and would (barely!) be within one year of 8/15/18 entry if school started (as most do) prior to 9 am. An email this past year from Jessica stated the exam must be done, for example, 8/16/17 or later. For a few students, this would make a difference.

- When counting intervals between days, do not count both the beginning and end dates of the interval. This logic applies whether counting the intervals between dates in a year or a month or a week, e.g., when counting 28 days between certain vaccines. Using this logic, and a calendar interval calculator found on the internet, the dates from Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, and Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, there are 365 days from the start date to the end date, counting the start date but not including the end date, or 1 year excluding the end date. If the parent had taken the child for an examination on both of those dates, some insurers may not have covered the payment as it was less than a year between exams; others may have. For the admittedly few students that this might involve, ISBE monitors probably would not argue that the examination was invalid since it was “within one year” of start to school, but would also support the school if it required a new examination Keep in mind, that if the child is young and has health issues, it is supported in rule and best practice to require a new examination.

If parents complete the questions on student health history portion online during school registration and sign that electronically, is that accepted?
• If the district allows electronic signature for other legal documents, such as registration, then electronic signatures on the portions parents complete on the child health examination are also acceptable. Contact your district administration for further guidance.

Is a hemoglobin required for all first time pre-k and kindergarten students?

• On the Child Health Examination form, hemoglobin is listed under “Recommended” so it is not required.

**TB Questions**

We have a "preschool" within the child development class at our high school. What does that mean for TB screening of the teacher and her "students/teachers?"

Regarding preschool, we have a Preschool within a high school class, a teacher is in charge and her high school students are learning teaching/development. What is the requirements for immunizations and TB screenings of these teachers/student?

• A tuberculosis skin test screening shall be included as a required part of each health examination included under this Section if the child resides in an area designated by the Department of Public Health as having a high incidence of tuberculosis.
• The TB Code specifies that “[w]orkers in child day care and pre-school settings shall obtain a TB screening test within seven days after being employed.”
• The School Code requires that “A new or existing employee may be subject to additional health examinations, including screening for tuberculosis, as required by rules adopted by the Department of Public Health or by order of a local public health official.” ISBE supports the conclusion that all new employees working in those “settings”, including schools, enrolling children of preschool age, defined as children under age 5, obtain a TB skin test, per TB code.
• The recommendation is if there is possibility of exposure to the children, test the staff.

**Vision and Hearing Questions**

Is there a new preferred method of documentation for vision/hearing screenings since the grid has been removed from the exam form?

• IDPH does not require a particular form be used for individual child vision/hearing screening results.
• IDPH requires and year end Annual Hearing Conservation Report and Vision Conservation Report found on IDPH's website.
• An IDPH certified vision and hearing screener must be the person performing mandated screening each year using mandated equipment and protocol.
• Mandated Vision and Hearing Screening in Illinois schools/preschools

The Illinois Child Vision and Hearing Test Act (410 ILCS 205) establishes minimum standards for mandated vision and hearing screening in schools and preschools throughout the state. The Illinois Administrative Code (Rules**) sets forth requirements for the qualifications and training of personnel who provide mandated screening services. In addition, the Rules specify the instruments and test protocol which must be used to perform mandated screening, and the grades/ages for which mandated screening must be provided.

The minimum standards include the following:
• All mandated screening must be done by screeners trained and certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Certificates must be current, not expired.
• All mandated screening must be done using approved instruments and test protocol as specified in the Illinois Administrative Code, Title 77, Sections 675 and 685.
• Minimum mandated grades for vision screening are kindergarten, second and eighth annually.
• All children enrolling in kindergarten in a public, private, or parochial school and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private, or parochial school shall have an eye examination provided by an eye doctor.
• Minimum mandated grades for hearing screening are kindergarten, first, second and third annually.
• All children age 3 and older in licensed daycare/preschool facilities must be screened annually for both vision and hearing.
• In lieu of mandated vision screening services required in the Rules, a completed and signed report form indicating that an eye examination by an M.D. specializing in diseases of the eye or a licensed optometrist has been administered within the previous 12 months, is acceptable. The report form should be on file at the child’s school.
• In lieu of the screening services required in the Rules, a completed and signed report form, indicating that the child has had an ear examination by a physician and an audiological evaluation completed by an audiologist within the previous 12 months is acceptable. The report form should be on file at the child’s school.
• Screening provided by personnel who are NOT trained and certified by IDPH does NOT meet the screening mandate for children in Illinois schools and preschools.

If you have questions regarding requirements for mandated vision and hearing screening for children in Illinois schools/preschools, please contact the Vision and Hearing Program at:

DPH.visionandhearing@illinois.gov

The following questions were received during the IDPH portion of the webinar August 16, 2017, and are referred to Illinois State Board of Education staff. Please refer to the FAQ for the ISBE Webinar FAQ.

1. Can cough drops without active ingredients be given with a parent note and no doctor's order?
2. Can a Health Department Nurse come in to review School Physicals without consent?
3. Can parents withhold reason for illness? I have had parents refuse to disclose reason for absence due to illness by stating it violates confidentiality.