



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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September 26, 2018

TO: NC Schools, Universities, Colleges and Child Care Facilities

FROM: Elizabeth Tilson, MD, MPH
State Health Director/ DHHS Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: Temporary Suspension of Immunization and School Health Assessment Requirements due to Hurricane Florence

This letter serves as notification to inform you of a temporary suspension of immunization requirements specified in 10A NCAC 41A .0401 until November 1, 2018. This will facilitate additional time for families to meet the immunization and school health assessment requirements due to potential barriers resulting from Hurricane Florence. The time period from the start of the temporary suspension on September 21 until November 1, 2018, will not count towards the 30 calendar days following the child's first date of school attendance that a parent, guardian or responsible person has to submit a certificate of immunization to fulfill requirements for public, private or religious schools (pre K – 12) or child care facilities (as defined in G.S. 110-86(3)), as required in G.S. 130A-155(a). This temporary suspension of the immunization requirements also applies to individuals attending NC colleges and universities, either public, private or religious, as described in 130A-155.1(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order 65, the requirements for presentation of the school health assessment as outlined in G.S. 130A-440(a) for every NC child entering kindergarten or higher grade in public schools for the first time will align with the presentation of the certification of immunization. Therefore, the time period between September 21 and November 1, 2018, will not count towards the 30 calendar days following the child's first date of school attendance that the family has to submit proof of a health assessment.

DHHS understands that the temporary suspension of immunization requirements may result in delayed submission of an annual immunization report in accordance with G.S. 130A-155(c) and 130A-441(c). Given the situation, DHHS will accept submissions until December 1, 2018, pursuant to Executive Order 65.

Although the temporary suspension may provide additional time for families to get required immunizations and health assessments for schools in communities experiencing the devastating effects of Hurricane Florence, we encourage all children to obtain the needed immunizations in accordance with G.S. 130A-152 and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices as early as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the on-call nurse for the Immunization Branch at 919-707-5575 or your school nurse consultant.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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