

Educating Daycare Providers to Become Immunization Superheroes



Annual New York Statewide
Immunization Meeting
March 13-14, 2019

Karen Menza, RN

Daycare Site Visits



Why?

- To protect all children from VPDs...they could be your child, grandchild, family friend....by educating the staff in basic vaccine knowledge, we can create "Immunization Superheroes" !!
- Majority of staff are laypeople with little, if any, vaccine background. After primary HCP's, daycare providers are often the secondary source of immunization discussion.
- Monitored and licensed by Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS) who provide minimal training of State vaccine requirements.

New York State Child Day Care Regulations

Effective March 20, 2017

Part 418-1:

Child Day Care Centers

- (3) The program must keep documentation of immunizations the child has received to date, in accordance with New York State Public Health Law.
- (4) Any child not yet immunized may be admitted provided the child's immunizations are in process, in accordance with the requirements of New York State Public Health Law, and the parent gives the program specific appointment dates for required immunizations.
- (5) Any child who is not immunized because of the parent's religious beliefs may be admitted if the parent furnishes the program with a written statement to this effect.
- (6) Any child who is missing one or more of the required immunizations may be admitted if a physician licensed to practice medicine furnishes the program with a written statement that such immunizations may be detrimental to the child's health.
- (7) With the exception of children meeting the criteria of section 416.11(a)(5) or (6), children enrolled in the child day care must remain current with their immunizations in accordance with the current schedule for required immunizations established in the New York State Public Health Law.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp>

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/regs/416-GFDC.pdf>

So why (again)?.....

We are in a perfect position to be their vaccine educators....So that they can advocate for the children under their care!



Misconceptions

- We are AUDITING their records –
No, this is an Educational Visit. We are REVIEWING their records and supplying them with tools to better comprehend how they can meet their requirements.
- They are independent, profit-making organizations –
True to some extent; they may be hesitant to exclude children due to the financial loss incurred, but...

PHL 2164

- Public Health Law TITLE VI- POLIOMYELITIS AND OTHER DISEASES
- § 2164. Definitions; immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), hepatitis B and varicella.
- 1. As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:
- a. **The term “school” means and includes any public, private or parochial child caring center, day nursery, day care agency, nursery school, kindergarten, elementary, intermediate or secondary school.**
- b. The term “child” shall mean and include any person between the ages of two months and eighteen years.

Misconceptions, cont'd.

- They do NOT want a visit –

When presented in a positive manner, we have never been turned down.

They do appreciate the education provided them.....and often express the lack thereof from OCFS!

- Time-consuming! –

On-site visit \leq one day, 2 letters needed, minimal phone calls



BENEFITS

- With practice/experience....

We assist the staff/site with becoming more proficient in immunization management

- Use this opportunity to discuss adult (staff) vaccinations...and, if possible, provide vaccinations or resources while on-site



Suggestions for visits



- Visit site before online State survey is due
- Remind them you are NOT auditing
- Provide educational packet/handouts on day of visit (let them know you will be providing such during phone conversation)
- Provide demonstration of NYSIIS

Suggestions, cont'd

- Provide suggestions for tracking –
 - ✓ “Once, and NOT done”
 - ✓ Utilize NYSIIS – do not rely on in-house computer programs (not specific enough)
- Provide suggestions for parents –
 - ✓ i.e. bulletin, calendar or newsletter immunization reminders
 - ✓ post PHL 2164
 - for parents’ better understanding of daycare’s obligations to protect each and every child in their care

REMEMBER.....



- When all is said and done, we are the front line immunization SUPERHEROES!!
- We are the educators, specialists and resource providers for "ALL THINGS VACCINE"



Karen Menza, RN, Immunization Specialist
Erie County Department of Health
Karen.menza@erie.gov
716-858-2373