

Immunization Policies and Procedures

Purpose: *Raíces recognizes its responsibility to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Raíces develops this policy in alignment with NMAC § 6.12.2.8. This policy addresses the requirement for student immunizations, how the school will track and maintain student records of compliance.*

Policy: Raíces will follow all requirements for student immunizations and shall not enroll students unless the student can present satisfactory evidence of commencement, completion or exemption of immunization in accordance with the immunization schedule and rules and regulations of the public health division.

Immunizations:

Raíces requires that students be immunized against certain communicable diseases in accordance with the immunization schedule and rules and regulations of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), Public Health Division NMAC 7.5.2. A parent/guardian must provide the immunization record to the school prior to the first day of school to demonstrate the student's commencement or completion of all immunizations. Immunization records will be kept up to date and made available to the public health division for auditing purposes.

Required immunizations include, but may not be limited to:

- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Poliomyelitis
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella
- Pneumococcal Disease
- Other vaccines for preventable diseases as determined by the secretary of the department of health.

Proof of immunizations will be made through a statement, certificate or record signed by a duly licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner, or other recognized public or private health facility stating that the student has received at least the first in the series of required immunizations and is proceeding with the immunizations according to the prescribed schedule. For the student whose immunizations are not up-to-date but who has received all immunizations currently permissible by medical practice, s/he is considered in process.

Students enrolled in Raices who have begun the process of immunization shall have one month following the date of enrollment to complete the required immunizations and submit satisfactory evidence of completing the required immunizations or having continued the process of the required series.

For the student who is attempting to reach compliance but is behind on a vaccination series, s/he is no longer considered in process. A scheduled appointment to receive required immunizations can be considered in process, allowing the student to register and attend school. If proof of immunization is not presented the first school day after this appointment, disenrollment procedure may begin. When any student is kept out of school longer than five consecutive days for noncompliance, the local Regional Health Officer (RHO) for NMDOH should be notified.

Raices will enroll children of military families for thirty (30) days while the student obtains the required immunizations. For a series of required immunizations, students of active military families must obtain at least the first in the series of required immunizations within thirty (30) days of the date of enrollment.

Exemptions from Immunizations:

Raices recognizes that pursuant to 7.5.3 NMAC, some students will be exempt from immunizations due to medical or religious reasons. In such cases, the parent/guardian must provide to the school one of the following documents:

1. A statement or certificate signed by a licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner stating that the physical conditions of the student is such that immunizations would seriously endanger the life or health of the student, or
2. A Certificate of Exemption officially granted by the Public Health Division in accordance with 24-5-3 NMSA at <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/>

In accordance with 6.12.2.8(C)[2] approved immunization waivers are valid for a period of up to nine months and will not extend beyond the end of the school year in which the child is currently enrolled.

Raices also recognizes that students who are identified as homeless may not be prevented from entering schools, based on inability to produce records normally required for enrollment, as per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Communication about Immunizations:

Raices will provide information to parents about required immunization at the time of student registration, during open house and when conducting a home visit prior to the first day of school. If possible, Raices will obtain posters and promotional materials published by the NMDOH to share with parents and inform them of requirements. Spanish translation of

information will be provided to parents (such as [this one](#)) and may be a link on the school's website.

Raices will ensure FERPA compliance by asking permission from parents to add historical immunization records into the New Mexico State Immunization Information System (NMSIIS). Raices will use an electronic template to be completed by parents or guardians so Raices can obtain the appropriate release for students' immunization records. It will be distributed as part of students' enrollment packets at the beginning of the school year.

Tracking Immunizations:

Raices will use a tool for determining the reporting status of Kindergarten students, developed by the New Mexico Department of Health to keep track of children being up-to-date on all required vaccines.