



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

August 1, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants and State School Nurse Consultants

**FROM:** Amanda Fuller Moore, PharmD, Deputy Epidemiology Section Chief *AM*

**SUBJECT: Catch-Up Immunization Schedule and NC Administrative Code 10A NCAC 41A .0401**

The purpose of this memo is to notify North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) participants and state school nurse consultants to utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Who Start Late or Who Are More than 1 Month Behind](#), which sets out age-appropriate vaccination in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendations, to meet state requirements for the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine series for children who are not up-to-date prior to school entry.

NC Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A .0401 requires every individual in North Carolina to have documentation of age-appropriate vaccination against specified infections in accordance with ACIP recommendations. ACIP recommendations are memorialized in the rule. However, as ACIP recommendations change from those memorialized in the rule, state requirements adapt to the most current published ACIP recommendations.

For diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough), five doses are currently memorialized in the rule. However, [current ACIP recommendations](#) are that fewer doses are needed to complete the series in situations where a child began their tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine series late or had an interruption in the recommended vaccine schedule. Children ten\* years of age or older who have not completed a DTaP series should have either three or four doses of DTaP/DT or Tdap/Td total to complete the series, depending on when the first dose was administered. Therefore, students ten years of age and older who have completed the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine series following such recommendations are in compliance with the law, even if the total number of doses administered is less than the number reflected in the rule.

For more information on CDC's catch-up immunization schedule, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html>

For more information on NC vaccine requirements, visit: <https://immunization.dph.ncdhhs.gov/schools/ncruleslaws.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Branch's on-call nurse line at 919-707-5575.

\*Please note, children seven through nine years of age who complete the primary vaccine series of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis before turning ten will still need one dose of Tdap between ages ten through twelve (prior to seventh grade entry).

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • IMMUNIZATION BRANCH**

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