



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
 State Superintendent of Education

September 29, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
 State Superintendent of Education

RE: Public Health Immunization Survey

On June 8, 2015, local education agencies received a memorandum regarding the Alabama School Immunization Law, *Code of Alabama (1975)*, §16-30-4, that requires students to be in compliance to attend school.

Each year the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) requests that we support the annual immunization survey. This survey provides current data indicating the immunization status of currently enrolled students. This information is used by the ADPH to assess statewide immunization coverage levels. Please complete and return the enclosed survey form to the ADPH (address, fax, and Web site are indicated on the survey form) by October 15, 2015. The Web site will remain open until November 1, 2015.

The local education agency is responsible for ensuring that we are in compliance with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*. The administrative procedures for the immunization audit will remain the same as in the past four years. The purpose of this audit will be to validate the information submitted on the survey through an immunization audit and to answer your questions regarding immunization records. The parent/guardian will have the privilege to opt out of the immunization audit.

Each school must ensure that each pupil presents a valid Certificate of Immunization as required by the *Code of Alabama (1975)*, §16-30-4. A child's entry and attendance in school are conditioned upon the presentation of a current and valid Certificate of Immunization unless a recognized exception applies. Exceptions include medical and religious exemptions, exemptions for those deemed homeless, migrant and immigrant under federal law, and special consideration for children of military personnel.

Although the child must first comply with state law to actually attend school, schools can enroll the child in the INOW Parent Portal while waiting for the valid certificate.

We also strongly encourage each superintendent and principal to work with parents, private healthcare providers, and county health departments to eliminate children attending school without a valid blue slip. The link below provides a list of county health departments that may serve as a resource for immunization services.

<http://www.adph.org/administration/assets/countylist.pdf>.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have questions for the ALSDE, please contact Ms. Jennifer Ventress, Nurse Administrator, at 334-242-8165 or jventress@alsde.edu. If you have questions for the ADPH, please contact Ms. Cindy Lesinger, ADPH, at 334-206-2018 or cindy.lesinger@adph.state.al.us.

TRB/JCV/SF

cc: Dr. Thomas M. Miller
 Ms. Cindy Lesinger
 Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
 Dr. Marilyn Lewis
 Ms. Jennifer C. Ventress

FY15-2112

Alabama
 State Board
 of Education

Governor
 Robert Bentley
 President

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.
 District I

Betty Peters
 District II

Stephanie Bell
 District III

Yvette M.
 Richardson, Ed.D.
 District IV
 President Pro Tem

Ella B. Bell
 District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
 District VI

Jeff Newman
 District VII
 Vice President

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
 District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
 Secretary and
 Executive Officer



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Donald E. Williamson, MD

State Health Officer

August 31, 2015

Dear Principal or Headmaster:

Subject: 2015-2016 Immunization School Entry Survey

The Alabama School Immunization Law, § 16-30-4, requires students be in compliance to attend school. In accordance with this law, students must be immunized against the following diseases: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella. Vaccination information for each grade level, 3-year-old kindergarten through 12th grade is requested. The State of Alabama immunization requirements are available at <http://www.adph.org/Immunization/assets/SchoolImmLaw.pdf>

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Immunization Division, annually evaluates the immunization status of school-aged children using the Alabama School Entry Immunization Survey. This assessment identifies students who need additional vaccines or documentation and assist in the school's effort to comply with statutory requirements. A copy of the survey is enclosed with instructions and a sample letter your school may send to the parents to update the Alabama Certificate of Immunization (COI).

Changes for the 2015-2016 school year are as follows:

- A dose of Tdap vaccine is now required for Alabama students' ages 11 years or older entering 6th through 11th grades. Students entering these grades will need to comply.

Please complete the Alabama School Entry Survey by Friday, October 9, 2015 online at <http://www.adph.org/Extranet/Forms/Form.asp?formID=5046>. Your school may be visited later in the school year by ADPH staff to validate information submitted on this survey. Please contact the Area Immunization Manager (map is enclosed) for questions or if you need more information about immunization requirements.

The Immunization Division is aware of restrictions imposed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and continues to work with the Department of Education and State School Nurse Administrator, Jennifer C. Ventress, R.N., B.S.N., to ensure that subsequent validation audits conducted by ADPH staff conform to the law. An opt-out letter for parents has been developed for this purpose and enclosed. Please send the letter to parents.

Thank you for your assistance in completing the 2015-2016 School Entry Survey.

Sincerely,



Cindy Lesinger
Director, Immunization Division

CL/nsm

Enclosures

cc: Karen Landers, M.D.
Harrison Wallace
Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
Marilyn Lewis, Ed.D.
Jennifer C. Ventress, R.N. B.S.N.

Sample Parent Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The State of Alabama School Law, §16-30-4, requires all students entering public or private school to present an up-to-date Alabama Certificate of Immunization (COI), an Alabama Certificate of Religious Exemption, or an Alabama Certificate of Medical Exemption for specific vaccine-preventable.

While conducting the annual School Entry Survey, it was discovered that your child lacked the item(s) marked below. Please bring in a revised (COI) indicating your child's updated immunization history. Your child may be excluded from school this year if there is a reported case of a vaccine-preventable disease.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning required vaccines or certificates, please call your physician or local county health department.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Principal or Headmaster Signature

Your child needs:

_____ Alabama Certificate of Immunization

_____ Documentation of varicella vaccine, history of disease, or lab test for immunity

_____ Documentation of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis vaccine

_____ Documentation of polio vaccine received on or after the 4th birthday

_____ Documentation of MMR vaccine

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The State of Alabama School Law, §16-30-4, requires all students entering public or private school to present an up-to-date Alabama Certificate of Immunization (COI, a.k.a the blue slip), an Alabama Certificate of Religious Exemption, or an Alabama Certificate of Medical Exemption for specific vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) conducts an audit of student immunization records to ensure that children enrolled in school comply with Alabama Law. During the course of the audit, if a child is identified to need further vaccinations or an updated certificate, the school will be notified at the completion of the audit. No identifying information about the child is kept by the ADPH employee.

In addition, if the school discovers that your child has an expired blue slip and no vaccines are needed, the school can update the COI.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Principal's Name
School Name

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act mandates parental consent be obtained for persons not employed by this school to view the records of its students.

Name of Child: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

_____ Yes, I give ADPH permission to access to my child's COI on record.

_____ No, I deny ADPH permission access to my child's COI on record.

No response is received from you, it is assumed ADPH has your permission to access your child's COI.

Instructions for Completing the 2015-2016 School Entry Immunization Survey

If you have questions about the school law or the completion of this survey, please call the Area Immunization Manager (map enclosed).

Complete the survey online at <http://www.adph.org/Extranet/Forms/Form.asp?formID=5046>. Please follow these instructions to complete the survey form:

1. **Total Enrollment Number (Column 1):** Enter the total number of students enrolled in each grade.
2. **Number with Unexpired Certificate of Immunization (COI, a.k.a the blue slip) (Column 2):** Enter the number of students, by grade, with an Alabama COI with a valid expiration date in the upper right corner.

Note: **Do not** enter students who have a Permanent Medical Exemption, Temporary Medical Exemption, Religious Exemption, Both Permanent Medical Exemption & COI, Both Temporary Medical Exemption & COI, or Both Religious Exemption & COI in this column.

3. **Number with Permanent Medical Exemption (Column 3):** A permanent medical exemption is located on the back of the COI. This section specifically reads, "State of Alabama Permanent Medical Exemption". Look on the back of **all** student forms to determine if a physician has granted a permanent medical exemption for vaccines. Enter the number of students, by grade, with a permanent medical exemption in this column.

Note: This applies only to children who are permanently medically exempt from **all** vaccines are included in Column 3. Students have a permanently medically exempt from diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and varicella vaccines.

4. **Number with Temporary Medical Exemption (Column 4):** A temporary medical exemption is located on the back of the COI. This section specifically reads, "State of Alabama Temporary Medical Exemption". Look on the back of **all** student forms to determine if a physician has granted a temporary medical exemption for vaccines. Enter the number of students, by grade, with a medical exemption in this column.

Note: This applies only to children who are temporarily exempt from **all** vaccines are included in Column 4. Students may have a temporary medical exemption from diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and varicella vaccines.

5. **Number with Religious Exemption (Column 5):** Enter the number of students, by grade, which have an official Certificate of Religious Exemption issued from the county health department.

Note: This applies **only** to students who are religiously exempt from **all** vaccines are included in Column 5. Students are religiously exempt from diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and varicella vaccines. Students who are religiously exempt from all required vaccines do not need to have a Certificate of Immunization.

6. **Number with Both Permanent Medical Exemption and Certificate of Immunization (COI, a.k.a the blue slip) (Column 6):** Enter the number of students, by grade, which have an Alabama COI with a valid expiration date **and** an official State of Alabama Permanent Medical Exemption from the a licensed physician.

Note: This applies **only** to students who have a permanent medical exemption for **some** of the state vaccine requirements. Students in Column 6 **must have** a current COI showing coverage for the vaccines that are not listed on the State of Alabama Permanent Medical Exemption.

7. **Number with Both Temporary Medical Exemption and Certificate of Immunization (COI, a.k.a the blue slip) (Column 7):** Enter the number of students, by grade, which have an Alabama Certificate of Immunization with a valid expiration date **and** an official State of Alabama Temporary Medical Exemption from a licensed physician.

Note: This applies **only** to students who have a temporary medical exemption for **some** of the state vaccine requirements. Students in Column 7 **must have** a current COI showing coverage for the vaccines that are not listed on the State of Alabama Temporary Medical Exemption.

8. **Number with Both Religious Exemption and Certificate of Immunization (COI, a.k.a. the blue slip) (Column 8):** Enter the number of students, by grade, who have an Alabama COI with a valid expiration date **and** an official Certificate of Religious Exemption issued from the county health department.

Note: This applies **only** to students who have a religious exemption for **some** of the state vaccine requirements. Students in Column 8 **must have** a current COI showing coverage for the vaccines that are not listed on the Certificate of Religious Exemption.

9. **Number with Expired Certificate of Immunization (COI, a.k.a the blue slip) (Column 9):** Enter the number of students who have expired certificates.

Note: Please do not hold the survey for students with forms that are expired. Send the survey by the due date and continue to follow these students until a valid certificate is placed in the student record.

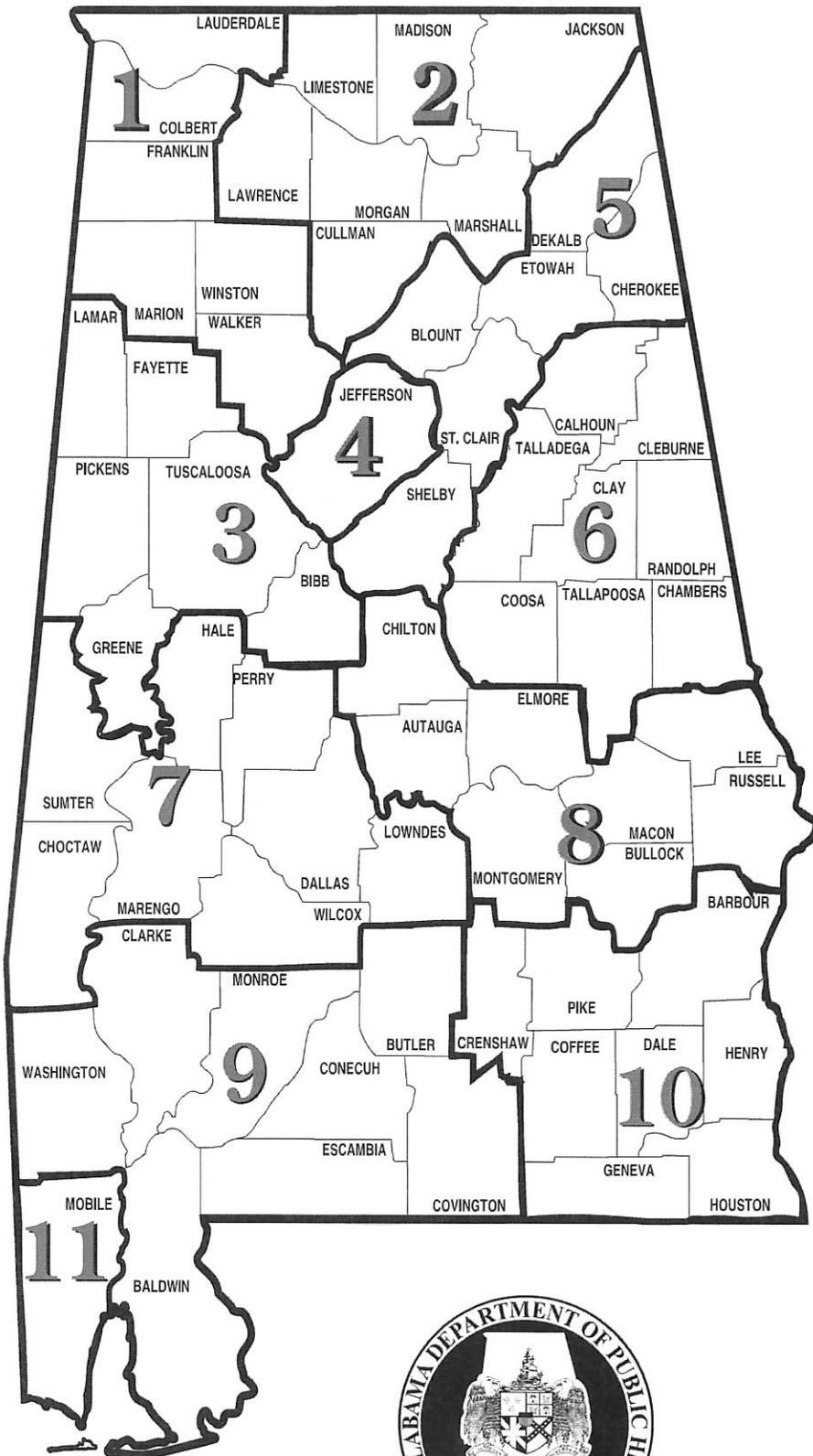
10. **Number with No Record on File (Column 10):** Enter the number of students who do not have a COI, Certificate of Religious Exemption, or Medical Exemption in their record.

11. **Number with Tdap Vaccine (Column 11):** Enter the number of children in grades 6th-11 grade with a required Tdap vaccine.

- 12.. **Number with Expired or No Record ImmPRINT Status (Column 12):** Enter the number of children in grades K-3 through 12th grade who have an expired **or** no COI **and** are up-to-date in ImmPRINT.

Note: The total for Columns 2 - 10 should equal the total enrollment in Column 1.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
 AREA IMMUNIZATION MANAGERS



PIIA 1 and 2
 Andrea George
 P. O. Box 1628
 Decatur, AL 35602-1628
 Phone (256) 340-2113
 Fax (256) 353-4432

PIIA 3
 Donna Richardson, RN
 2350 Hargrove Road East
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
 Phone: (205) 554-4501
 FAX (205) 562-6905

PIIA 4
 Criscelia Agee, RN
 1400 Sixth Avenue South
 Birmingham, AL 35233
 Ph: 205-930-1960
 Fax: 205-930-1299

PIIA 5
 Karen Bush, RN
 709 East Broad Street
 Gadsden, AL 35903
 Phone: (256) 569-8170
 Fax: (256) 543-0067

PIIA 6
 Phyllis Coughran, RN
 1004 South Street East
 Talladega, AL 35160
 Phone: (256) 315-4863
 Fax: (256) 362-0529

PIIA 7
 Denice Clark, RN
 100 Moseley Drive
 Selma, AL 36701
 Phone: (334)874-2550
 Fax: (334) 872-6194

PIIA 8
 Ona Jean Abbott, R.N.
 2500 Fairlane Dr. Bldg. 2, Suite 200
 Montgomery, AL 36116
 Phone (334) 277-8464
 FAX (334) 244-1592

PIIA 9
 David Legett
 312 Courthouse Square, Suite 31
 Bay Minette, AL 36507
 Phone: (251) 937-5859
 Fax: (251) 937-7238

PIIA 10
 Charlotte Gilmore, R.N.
 2841 Neal Metcalf Rd.
 Enterprise, AL 36630
 Phone: (334) 347-9574
 FAX (334) 347-0823

PIIA 11
 Dan St. Onge
 251 N. Bayou Street
 P.O. Box 2867
 Mobile, AL 36652-2867
 Phone (251) 690-8991
 FAX (251) 690-8122

