



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 8, 2017

Dear School Superintendent, Principal, Administrator, and Nurse:

This letter is being sent to clarify the use of serologic testing to document polio immunity to meet school immunization requirements.

New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Title 10, Subpart 66-1 states that a positive serologic test for all three serotypes of poliomyelitis found in the polio vaccine can be accepted as proof of immunity to satisfy the school immunization requirements for polio for students who do not have documentation of a complete polio vaccine series. A serologic test means a blood test for Immunoglobulin G (IgG) and any result reported as equivocal is not acceptable. Therefore, any laboratory report of serologic testing for immunity to polio must document a separate positive result for each of the three serotypes (types 1, 2, and 3) to satisfy the school requirements.

As part of global efforts to eradicate polio, the World Health Organization began efforts in 2015 to contain all potentially infectious poliovirus type 2 materials to certified poliovirus-essential facilities. Serologic testing for poliovirus type 2 immunity uses these materials. Therefore, as of early 2017, no United States laboratories offer serologic tests for immunity to poliovirus type 2 anymore.

Polio serologic tests that do not report all three serotypes cannot be accepted in place of vaccination. In addition, polio antibody tests which only report a combined antibody titer but do not provide results for each individual serotype will not satisfy the regulatory requirements. However, previous serologic testing, which was obtained when testing for poliovirus type 2 was still available in the United States, can still be accepted if the test documents a separate positive result for each of the three serotypes.

If you have any questions regarding school requirements for polio vaccination or polio serology please call the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization, at (518) 474-1944 or via email at osas@health.ny.gov. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that all children in New York State are appropriately immunized.

Sincerely,

Christine L. Compton, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director, Bureau of Immunization