

Spotting a Fraudulent Record

The New York State Department of Health wants to help schools recognize red flags on immunization records to stop fraud. Schools are on the frontlines in the defense against vaccine preventable diseases and have the responsibility to reject immunization records they believe to be fraudulent based on their knowledge and assessment of the facts.

Acceptable Forms of Immunization Records*

- Record signed by New York State licensed practitioner
- New York State Immunization Information System record or Citywide Immunization Registry
- Official record from a registry in another state
- Electronic health record
- Official record from a foreign nation**
- School health record transferred directly from another school

*Immunization records include vaccination history, medical exemptions, and laboratory results that indicate immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and Hepatitis B.
**An official record from a foreign nation may be accepted as a certificate of immunization without a licensed practitioner's signature. An unofficial record, such as one issued by a private clinic in another country, cannot be accepted unless it was reviewed and signed by a health practitioner licensed in New York State.

Red Flags

that warrant further investigation, such as:

- 🚩 Vaccinations administered by a provider with a known history of vaccination fraud.
- 🚩 Students who appear to have come into compliance very quickly.
- 🚩 Required vaccines from a practice that typically does not administer childhood immunizations (for example, a homeopathic or midwifery practice).
- 🚩 Immunizations from a practitioner based in New York State or New York City that are inexplicably not in New York State Immunization Information System or Citywide Immunization Registry (note: vaccine providers are required to submit vaccination information to the database within 14 days of administration).
- 🚩 New York State Immunization Information System or Citywide Immunization Registry records that are incomplete or inconsistent with paper records.
- 🚩 Vaccines administered on dates that do not follow the [Center for Disease Control | Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Schedule](#).
- 🚩 Health care practitioners who are not located within a reasonable distance from where the student resides/attends school.
- 🚩 Inconsistent lab results, such as titers that do not make sense.
- 🚩 Practitioners who have patterns that do not follow the norm when it comes to administering vaccines or medical exemptions.
- 🚩 Physicians who have issued a high number of medical exemptions to students who had non-medical exemptions prior to June 2019.
- 🚩 Students who submit the same medical exemption annually with a contraindication that should have resolved or progressed in diagnosis, or that is not valid according to the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Contraindications Guidelines for Immunization | Center for Disease Control](#).
- 🚩 Vaccines administered by physicians who had previously signed unapproved medical exemptions for the student in question (or who has signed a disproportionate number of medical exemption requests for other students in the school or district).
- 🚩 Multiple students who have medical exemptions with similar contraindications from the same physician.

How to Assess an Immunization Record

All immunization records should clearly state a student's name and date of birth. Make sure this information is correct when compared to the school's record. Look for any abnormalities in other information that is included, like address or parent names.

Official New York State immunization records should be clearly marked by the practitioner's office from which they came.

Examples:

- Document header
- Watermark
- Stamp

EXAMPLE RECORD

**NEW YORK STATE PEDIATRICS
PATIENT VACCINATION RECORD**
SUMMARY (DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL VACCINE TYPES)

Organization: NEW YORK COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS
Facility: PEDIATRICS
Date: NOV 23 2022
Name: JANE DOE
DOB: MAY 26 2014
Physician: JOHN SMITH, M.D.

Vaccine Group	Date	Date	Date	Date	Dates
DtaP/DTP/Td	07/11/2014	01/07/2015	02/10/2015	07/14/2016	07/12/2019
OPV/IPV	07/11/2014	01/07/2015	02/10/2015		
MMR	05/27/2015	09/13/2019			
Hep B	05/30/2014	07/11/2014	02/10/2015		
Varicella	05/27/2015	09/13/2019			
Tdap					
MenACWY					

X

JOHN SMITH
M.D.

Although records can often be several separate documents, all required vaccines should be clearly documented. Immunization records that include multiple documents, possibly from different practitioners, should be examined to ensure dates and information match.

New York State immunization records should be signed or stamped by a New York State licensed practitioner.

Immunization dates should follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices schedule. It is not uncommon for children to get several vaccines on one day; however, immunizations administered within a few days of each other should be scrutinized.

Questions or concerns regarding records and their origin, please email OSAS@health.ny.gov for further guidance

Vaccine-related fraud can be reported by emailing STOPVAXFRAUD@health.ny.gov



Department
of Health