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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 19, 2018

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Nick Lyon, Director *Nick Lyon*
Sheila A. Alles, Interim State Superintendent of Department of Education *Sheila*

SUBJECT: Immunization Requirements for Children Entering Kindergarten, 7th grade,
or Children Entering a New School District in grades 1-12 during the
2018-19 School Year

On August 23, 2018, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) issued guidance on a procedure for reporting student immunization status and immunization information, with and without personally identifiable information, in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code, administrative rules, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g. The guidance document included MCIR SIRS (Michigan Care Improvement Registry School Immunization Reporting System) screenshots and an explanation on the “FERPA no consent” checkbox function.

On September 12th, you may have received an e-mail from a group called Michigan for Vaccine Choice (MVC), expressing its views on schools’ immunization reporting obligations and FERPA. However, MDHHS and MDE’s guidance on these matters remains unchanged. Contrary to MVC’s claims, the guidance provides a reporting procedure in accordance with state and federal law. Should you have questions about the guidance or reporting process, please contact your local health department. A list of all local health departments is found at <https://malph.org/resources/directory>.

Thank you for your service to the children of Michigan and to keeping them healthy and safe.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance