



AEA and LEA School Nurses and School Nurse Consultants
AEA Chief Administrators
To: LEA Superintendents
From: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)
Date: August 1, 2019
Re: Recommended follow-up for required student health screenings

Memo:

Schools serve as a critical partner in ensuring students are healthy and ready to learn. When students are identified who may have barriers to learning, it is important to link students and their parents or guardians with available services to provide the best opportunity for the student to succeed.

In Iowa, there are four health screening programs regulated by the state and implemented by the schools: immunization, dental, vision and blood lead. The 2018 legislative session considered action in response to concerns raised by schools regarding the burden experienced in carrying out various student health screening requirements. After considering input from various interest groups, the legislature passed Senate File (SF) 475. SF475 directed the Iowa Departments of Public Health (IDPH) and Education (IDOE) to convene a work group to study the student health screening programs.

As a result of this work group, the IDPH is releasing guidelines for schools to use in regards to follow-up for required student health screenings. These guidelines specify the **most reasonable number of attempts school staff should make** when communicating with parents or guardians regarding the collection of results for the required four health screenings.

Immunization:

On the first day of school a Certificate of Immunization, Certification of Immunization Exemption or Provisional Certificate of Immunization must be on file with the school the child will attend. Students not meeting immunization requirements shall be excluded from school until a completed certificate of immunization is submitted. It is the duty of the school's admitting official to deny enrollment to any student without proper evidence to meet immunization requirements. (See 641 IAC – Chapter 7) Template letters for implementing these requirements are available from IDPH.



Child Dental Screening:

A Certificate of Dental Screening or financial hardship/religious exemption form is required for each newly enrolled kindergarten or ninth grade student. If evidence of a dental screening is not provided upon enrollment, one letter provided by IDPH requesting submission of a Certificate of Dental Screening form should be sent to the student's parent or guardian. If the Certificate of Dental Screening is not provided following the letter, a follow up phone call attempt should be made if time permits.

Child Vision Screening:

Upon enrollment, if a student's parent or guardian has not provided evidence of a vision screening, the school should send one letter (template provided by IDPH) to the parent/guardian of the student requesting the student's proof/evidence of a child vision screening. NO ADDITIONAL follow-up is required by the school. Submit the child vision screening forms your school has collected to IDPH.

Childhood Lead Screening:

Each school (school nurses) receive an email from IDPH at the beginning of the school year with instructions and a spreadsheet. The school provides a list of students enrolled in Kindergarten on the provided spreadsheet in the specified format. IDPH expects that this spreadsheet be submitted to the department by October 31st. IDPH completes a match of the children's names and provides a list back to the schools of children in Kindergarten who, according to the department's records, may have not received a blood lead test.

The school should send a letter (template provided by IDPH) with contact information to the parent/guardian of children that the department believes have not received a blood lead test. NO ADDITIONAL follow-up is required by the school.

Template letters identified above are available on health screening program webpages. Links can be found on the Iowa Student Health Screening Requirements page at <https://idph.iowa.gov/iowa-student-health-screening-requirements>, and on the school nurse google site hosted by Iowa Department of Education.