A notice of adoption of new school immunization regulations will be published in the New York State Register on August 26, 2015. The regulations will go into effect on September 1, 2015. The finalized regulations will be the same as the proposed regulations that were published in the State Register on March 18, 2015. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will issue guidance to schools and healthcare providers regarding the new regulations once the notice of adoption is published.

The new regulations will require that, effective September 1, 2015, children entering or attending kindergarten through twelfth grades (excepting those children entering eighth through twelfth grades in the 2015-2016 school year) must have received 2 doses of MMR vaccine and 5 doses of DTaP vaccine (however, if the fourth dose of DTaP was given on or after the child’s 4th birthday, then 4 doses will meet the DTaP requirements), and that children entering or attending kindergarten and grades 1, 6, and 7 in the 2015-2016 school year must have received 4 doses of polio vaccine (however, if the third dose was given on or after the child’s 4th birthday, then 3 doses will meet the polio requirements), unless they have acceptable evidence of immunity, a medical or religious exemption to vaccination, or are in the process of completing vaccinations according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices schedule.

If you have any questions regarding the new regulations, please contact the NYSDOH, Bureau of Immunization at (518) 474-1944 or via email at osas@health.ny.gov.