

INFORMATIONAL LETTER #

POLICY CODE:

DATE: April 23, 2007

TO: Superintendents of Schools, Private Schools
Special Purpose Private Schools

FROM: Commissioner Susan A. Gendron, Department of Education
Commissioner Brenda M. Harvey, Department of Health and Human Services

RE: School Nurse Access for the New Immunization Information System (ImmPact2)

The Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are pleased to announce the next step in our continued collaboration towards maintaining our high standard of immunization within Maine schools. The Maine Immunization Program (MIP) is working towards offering “view access” of the Maine Immunization Information System (IIS/ImmPact2) to school nurses. This will allow your school nurses to look up students contained within ImmPact2 for their immunization-related documentation. This would save them the time and effort of trying to coordinate with those doctors’ offices that participate with the MIP IIS. Below is the background of the importance and benefit of this next step, and how DHHS and MIP are working to make the immunization requirements easier to fulfill and to ease some of the work load of already busy school staff.

The DOE and the DHHS are committed to providing a healthy learning environment for the children of Maine. In accordance with school law, schools are required to keep immunization records on all children enrolled in school. This can be a daunting task that keeps school nurses especially busy at registration time.

The MIP developed and Immunization Information System (IIS) called ImmPact to provide a safe and secure record of children’s immunizations that can only be accessed by authorized individuals. As children are vaccinated at the doctors’ offices, a record of that vaccination is entered in ImmPact. Historical vaccinations can also be entered at this time. Doctors use the system to make sure their patients are up-to-date for all their vaccinations. Recognizing that this system would be of great value to schools, access for school nurses was added.

ImmPact has recently been upgraded to a more robust system and has become much faster and more user-friendly. Now called ImmPact2, it is once again available free for the school nurses’ use. In order for your school nurse to have access to ImmPact2, an agreement between the school superintendent and MIP is now required. Please fill out the attached agreement and return to the MIP.

For further information, please contact Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant, DOE, at 624-6688 or by email at nancy.dube@maine.gov or please contact Jeremy Black, Public Health Educator III, DHHS, at 287-3746 or by email at Jeremy.black@maine.gov.

SAG/ND/kf