



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

15 DEC 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2020-17 (Child, Youth, and School Services Immunization Requirements)

1. References.

- a. Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 (Child Development Programs (CDPs)), 5 August 2014, incorporating Change 2, effective 1 September 2020
- b. Army Regulation (AR) 40–5 (Army Public Health Program), 12 May 2020
- c. AR 40–562 (Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases), 7 October 2013
- d. AR 215–3 (Nonappropriated Funds Instrumentalities Personnel Policy), 29 August 2019
- e. AR 608–10 (Child Development Services), 11 May 2017
- f. Army Directive 2015-44 (Updated Policy for Army Child, Youth, and School Services Programs), 14 December 2015 (superseded in part)

2. Purpose. This directive implements an immunization policy to protect children from communicable diseases in the Army's Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) programs. Safe, reliable childcare reduces the stress between parental responsibilities and mission requirements, an integral factor in military readiness. The Army remains committed to ensuring the wellness of Families enrolled.

3. Applicability. The provisions of this directive apply to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.

4. Background. Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (most recently, measles) are on the rise in the United States and Europe. These outbreaks have endangered the lives of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated populations, particularly infants not yet old enough to be fully vaccinated. Given the transient nature of our military Families, I am concerned that they face a greater risk of exposure to these diseases. The potential spread of vaccine-preventable disease impacts military readiness and poses a danger to Family health.

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5. Policy. Age-appropriate immunizations are required for children participating in CYSS programs. Civilian employees (including specified regular volunteers) and family childcare (FCC) providers must obtain immunizations against communicable diseases. Immunizations must meet current standards published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). An immunization exemption may be granted for medical or non-medical (for example, religious) reasons. The preservation of public health and safety remains the primary factor in decisions to grant or deny a waiver. To reduce the risk of spreading vaccine-preventable disease in Army CYSS programs, the following requirements take effect within 90 days of the date of this directive:

a. Staff members, FCC providers, and volunteers who are not immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases in accordance with ACIP recommendations will no longer be assigned to care for infants. Staff members with approved medical or non-medical waivers will be provided reasonable accommodation if it does not cause undue hardship to the Army.

b. To prevent a communicable disease and to protect public health, the 30-day grace period for children to be immunized before starting care will be suspended if the senior commander declares an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease on the installation.

c. Newly hired employees have 30 days to initiate and 60 days to complete all required immunizations once onboard.

d. Immunization waiver requests.

(1) Medical waiver requests. The Chief, Installation Department of Public Health (IDPH) may approve medical waiver requests if the Chief is certified as a preventive medicine physician, occupational medicine physician, or Army Public Health nurse. If there is no IDPH Chief, or if the Chief is not a qualified medical professional, as described above, approval may be granted by the appropriate clinical public health staff at the Regional Health Command. Report all approved medical waiver requests to The Surgeon General (TSG) monthly.

(2) Non-medical waiver requests. The Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-9 is the approval authority; no interim approval is authorized. The DCS, G-9 will consult with TSG and The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) before taking action on non-medical waiver requests.

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(3) Waivers must be in writing and are valid for no longer than 1 year from the date of waiver approval or on policy revision, whichever is sooner.

(4) The DCS, G-9 may review or rescind a waiver, in consultation with TSG and TJAG, if circumstances warrant.

(5) Within 60 days of the date of this directive, the DCS, G-9, in coordination with TSG, will publish an EXORD detailing submission requirements for participants and program personnel requesting medical and non-medical waivers from immunization.

6. Proponent. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs is the proponent for this policy. The DCS, G-9 will incorporate the relevant provisions of this directive into AR 608–10, and the TSG will incorporate the relevant provisions of this directive into AR 40–5, within 2 years from the date of this directive.

7. Duration. This directive is rescinded on publication of the revised regulations.



Ryan D. McCarthy

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