



Kathleen R. DeCataldo, Esq.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Student Support Services  
89 Washington Avenue, Room 318-M EB  
Phone: (518) 486-6090 Web: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/>

**Date:** May 21, 2020

**To:** BOCES District Superintendents, Superintendents of Public School Districts, Principals of Public Schools, Charter School Leaders

**From:** Kathleen R. DeCataldo

**Subject: School Health Examinations in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic**

In the April 16, 2019 NYSED memo [Required New York State School Health Examination Form Update](#), the New York State (NYS) Education Department (Department) asked schools to accept any physical examination form from students for the 2019-2020 school year, regardless of whether it is on the *NYS Required Health Examination Form*.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that it is having on our health care providers, we are asking schools to:

- Continue to accept any physical examination form from students for physicals conducted on or before January 30, 2021, regardless of the form used;
- Continue to follow [Commissioner's Regulations 136.3 \(c\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#), which requires schools to notify the parent/guardians of any student who does not present a health certificate within the 30 days from the start of the school year for new entrants and students entering into Grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 that if the required health certificate is not furnished within 30 days from the date of such notice, the director of school health services shall conduct an examination by health appraisal of the student;
- Allow additional time for parents/guardians to obtain a health examination from a private healthcare provider before scheduling an appraisal with the director of school health services (a.k.a. medical director) if private healthcare providers are unavailable due to the COVID crisis. We encourage schools not to schedule health appraisals with the medical director until early 2021, although that may change depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the fall;
- School nurses and medical directors should continue to exclude students and staff who show symptoms of any communicable or infectious disease in accordance with [Article 19, Section 906](#); and
- Permit student athletes to participate in the fall 2020 sports season if they have previously had a health examination for school attendance in the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school years and provide a health history completed ([Sample Recommended NYSED Interval Health History for Athletics](#)) and signed by the parent/guardian within 30 days of the start of the season. Student athletes who have not previously had a health examination must still obtain a health examination prior to participation in the fall 2020 sports season. At this time, students should plan to obtain the required health examination prior to participation in the winter or spring 2020-21 seasons, although that may change depending on the status of COVID-19 in the fall. The Department will provide updated information as needed.

Beginning January 31, 2021 - although that may change depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the fall - physical examinations for school are to be documented on the [NYS Required Health Examination Form](#) or an electronic health record equivalent form. The [Instructions for Completion of New York State School Health Examination Form](#) provides direction to healthcare

providers on the details of the required components and the required presentation order of those components for an electronic health record form to be an equivalent form. Both of these documents are available on [NYSED's School Health Services Webpage](#).

Please contact the Office of Student Support Services if you have questions by email at [studentsupportservices@nysed.gov](mailto:studentsupportservices@nysed.gov) or at 518-486-6090.