Immunizations & Quarantine: North Carolina Law

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NC Immunization Requirements

General rule: all children

- “Every child present in this State shall be immunized” (G.S. 130A-152)

Exemptions

- Medical (G.S. 130A-156)
- Religious (G.S. 130A-157)
Required Immunizations & Schedule

CDC’s Recommended Schedule

NC’s Required Schedule:
10A N.C.A.C. 41A .0401
If a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State certifies that a required immunization is or may be detrimental to a person’s health due to the presence of one of the contraindications adopted by the Commission, the person is not required to receive the specified immunization as long as the contraindication persists.” G.S. 130A-156

- Licensed physician must certify
- ACIP-recognized contraindication, or specific approval by State Health Director
- DHHS Form 3987

G.S. 130A-156 ; 10A N.C.A.C. 41A .0404
NC Religious Exemption

- “If the bona fide religious beliefs of an adult or the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of a child are contrary to the immunization requirements contained in this Chapter, the adult or the child shall be exempt from the requirements.”

- No DHHS form – parent writes statement

G.S. 130A-157
In NC, no exemption for personal beliefs not founded in religion

- “There is no exception to these requirements for the case of a personal belief or philosophy of a parent or guardian not founded upon a religious belief.”

10A NCAC 41A. 0403
Quarantine in Outbreaks of VPD

- A child who has not been immunized may be subject to quarantine in an outbreak, even if the child has an exemption.

- The term quarantine authority includes “the authority to issue an order to limit the freedom of movement or action of persons who have not received immunizations against a communicable disease when the State Health Director or a local health director determines that the immunizations are required to control an outbreak of that disease.” G.S. 130A-2(7a)