Honorable Kimberly Causey Gomez  
Commissioner  
Department of Human Services  
Knud Hansen Complex, Building A  
1303 Hospital Ground  
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDCARE FACILITIES, PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS & SUMMER CAMPS (2019-2020 School Year)

As part of the Department of Health’s mandate to ensure healthy communities in the Territory, it is recommended that the Department of Human Services (DHS) require the following immunizations for infants and children attending daycare centers and pre-schools in the US Virgin Islands.

The following vaccines are recommended by the Department of Health as well as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP):

Hepatitis B, Rotavirus, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenzae type b, Pneumococcal (Prevnar) Inactivated Poliovirus, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Hepatitis A, and Influenza.

Please note that the Influenza vaccine is being recommended for the population you regulate. Children in childcare facilities 6 months old and above are encouraged to receive the influenza vaccine by December 31, 2019 (unless child is exempt – see guidelines below).

Through ongoing assessment of our coverage rates, it has been determined that less than 10% of the Virgin Islands children are vaccinated against influenza. Conditions in children facilities also promote the spread of influenza: there are a large number of people together who are in close contact, and there is poor respiratory hygiene (e.g., covering a cough). Even more, the highest rates of infection are in children less than 5 years old.

CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine. Vaccination is especially important for certain people who are at high risk or who are in close contact with high risk persons, including the following groups:
Vaccine Requirements for School Entry SY 2019-2020
Page 2

- Children younger than 5 years of age, and children of any age with a long-term health condition like asthma, diabetes, or disorders of the brain or nervous system. These children are at higher risk of serious flu complications (like pneumonia) if they get the flu. For the complete list of those at high risk, visit People at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications.

- Adults who meet any of the following criteria listed below should get a seasonal flu vaccine:
  - Are in close contact with children younger than 5 years of age (people who live with them).
  - Are out-of-home caregivers (nannies, daycare providers, etc.) of children younger than 5 years of age.
  - Live with or have other close contact with a child or children of any age with a chronic health problem (asthma, diabetes, etc.).
  - Are health care workers

The Department of Health requests that the Department of Human Services sends an official notice to all childcare centers and pre-schools of your Departments’ updated vaccine requirements and revises your Universal Health Record form to include all of the above vaccines.

- All children shall receive the recommended vaccines(s) (and total number of doses), at the minimum age recommended in the attached immunization schedule prior to admissions to the childcare facility; however, for each child, eligibility to receive recommended vaccines will be determined by the clinic Nurse or health care provider.

- Special vaccination instructions for children aged 6 months through 8 years of age for the influenza vaccines is also attached for your information and implementation.

For more information concerning number of doses recommended based upon the child’s age and immunization history, please refer to the attached “Recommended Immunizations Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 6 Years”.

Please call the Department of Health MCH Program at (340) 777-8804 for St. Thomas/St. John or (340) 514-6839 on St. Croix if you have any questions concerning the vaccines recommended for infants and children specified above.

Please note: Exemptions may be granted for school-aged children based on the principles and teachings of a recognized religious organizations/church and if the vaccines/medical agents are medically contraindicated (please see VI Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-3 & 116-4).

Sincerely,

Nicole A. Carriuolo-Smyer, 9/12/19
Justa Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM Date
Commissioner of Health
### Table 1

#### Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for ages 18 years or younger

United States, 2019

These recommendations must be read with the Notes that follow. For those who fall behind or start late, provide catch-up vaccination at the earliest opportunity as indicated by the green bars in Table 1. To determine minimum intervals between doses, see the catch-up schedule (Table 2). School entry and adolescent vaccine age groups are shaded in gray.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>1 mo</th>
<th>2 mos</th>
<th>4 mos</th>
<th>6 mos</th>
<th>9 mos</th>
<th>12 mos</th>
<th>15 mos</th>
<th>18 mos</th>
<th>19-23 mos</th>
<th>2-3 yrs</th>
<th>4-6 yrs</th>
<th>7-10 yrs</th>
<th>11-12 yrs</th>
<th>13-15 yrs</th>
<th>16 yrs</th>
<th>17-18 yrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B (HepB)</td>
<td>1st dose</td>
<td>2nd dose</td>
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<td>Rotavirus (RV) RV1 (2-dose series); RV5 (3-dose series)</td>
<td>1st dose</td>
<td>2nd dose</td>
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<td>4th dose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, tetanus, &amp; acellular pertussis (DTaP; &lt;7 yrs)</td>
<td>1st dose</td>
<td>2nd dose</td>
<td>3rd dose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)</td>
<td>1st dose</td>
<td>2nd dose</td>
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<td>3rd or 4th dose</td>
<td>See Notes</td>
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<td>Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)</td>
<td>1st dose</td>
<td>2nd dose</td>
<td>3rd dose</td>
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<td>Inactivated poliovirus (IPV; &lt;18 yrs)</td>
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<td>2nd dose</td>
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<td>4th dose</td>
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<td>Influenza (IIV) or Influenza (LAIV)</td>
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<td>Annual vaccination 1 or 2 doses</td>
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<td>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)</td>
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<td>Varicella (VAR)</td>
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<td>Hepatitis A (HepA)</td>
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<td>2-dose series, See Notes</td>
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<td>Meningococcal (MenACWY-D ≥9 mos; MenACWY-CRM ≥2 mos)</td>
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<td>Tetanus, diphtheria, &amp; acellular pertussis (Tdap; ≥7 yrs)</td>
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<td>Human papillomavirus (HPV)</td>
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<td>Meningococcal B</td>
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<td>Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)</td>
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</table>

- Range of recommended ages for all children
- Range of recommended ages for catch-up immunization
- Range of recommended ages for certain high-risk groups
- Range of recommended ages for non-high-risk groups that may receive vaccine, subject to individual clinical decision-making
- No recommendation