Dear Principal,

Re: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL ENTRY CERTIFICATE

Since 23rd August 2004 two forms of a school entry immunisation certificate became acceptable in Victoria.

1. The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) Child History Statement (CHS) will act as a school entry certificate provided the statement “This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age” appears on the CHS.

ACIR will automatically post out the valid CHS to parents after their child has received the four-year-old immunisations and are fully immunised. This statement can be presented on school enrolment. If a parent loses their CHS for school entry or has not receive one and their child is fully immunised they should contact ACIR on 1800 683 809.

Children who are not fully immunised or whose data is incomplete on ACIR will not receive the valid certificate. Instead a reminder CHS from ACIR will be sent to parents when their child turns 5 years of age reminding them of the vaccines that their child is overdue for.

2. Councils will still issue school entry certificates in the following circumstances:
   - Children with medical contraindications (an incomplete certificate will be issued)
   - Children whose parents are conscientious objectors (an incomplete certificate will be issued)
   - Children who were born overseas, but have no documentation (i.e. a parent had to sign a statutory declaration) (a complete certificate will be issued)

Additional information about the school entry immunisation process is available on the DHS Immunisation Program website: www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation under the heading 'frequently asked questions'

I hope this clarifies the school entry immunisation certificate process for you. Please ensure all staff involved in the school enrolment process are aware of this process.

Regards

Heidi March
Immunisation Nurse Team Leader