


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Fitzroy Lee
Acting Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Fitzroy Lee
Acting Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: December 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Coronavirus Immunization of School
Students and Early Childhood Workers Amendment Act of 2021

REFERENCE: Bill 24-423, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 24, 2021

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2025 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Students attending school in the District of Columbia are required¹ to receive certain immunizations² prior to the first day of classes each school year. The bill adds COVID-19 to this list of required vaccinations.

The bill requires³ that all students, or their guardians, submit documentation to their school proving that they received the COVID-19 immunization or did not receive the COVID-19 immunization due to a medical or religious exemption. This documentation must be provided to schools starting on March 1, 2022 and each following school year. If the COVID-19 immunization has not been fully approved for a particular age group or if an individual becomes of age and eligible for a COVID-19

¹ See The Immunization of School Students Act of 1979, effective September 28, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-20; D.C. Official Code § 38-501 *et seq.*).

² See D.C. Code § 38-504; 22B DCMR §§ 130-152. Including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, mumps, measles, rubella, polio, Haemophilus influenza type (Hib), hepatitis B, varicella, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

³ By amending The Immunization of School Students Act of 1979, effective September 28, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-20; D.C. Official Code § 38-501 *et seq.*).

immunization, a student, or their guardian, must submit a certification of immunization within two months from the date of approval of the vaccine or the student's birthday. Schools are not required to enforce the documentation requirements until the start of school year 2022-2023.

The bill requires private physicians to submit electronically to the Department of Health (DC Health) all certification of immunizations they provide to students beginning in school year 2022-2023. DC Health is then required to transmit all certification of immunizations to the school where a student is enrolled.

Lastly, the bill requires⁴ that all employees of licensed child development facilities provide written certification at least annually that they have received a COVID-19 vaccine or have been granted an exemption by the child development facility due to medical or religious reasons.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2025 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

District of Columbia Public Schools and public charter schools already screen students for compliance with vaccine requirements at the beginning of each school year. Adding an additional vaccine to the student vaccine schedule does not have a cost. DC Health already reviews vaccine exemption requests and will review any exemption request that result from adding COVID-19 to the routine student vaccine schedule.

DC Health is currently in the process of upgrading its District of Columbia Immunization Information System (DOCIIS) which will be ready in time for school year 2022-2023. DOCIIS is an internet-based system that collects, stores, tracks and monitors immunization event information for District residents. Schools will be able to access DOCIIS to obtain real-time immunization data for each enrolled student.

Staff working at childcare development facilities in the District are already required to be vaccinated for COVID-19.⁵ The bill establishes rules to support the requirements specified in the Mayor's Order.

⁴ By amending Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of Title 5 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (5 DCMR §A100 *et seq.*).

⁵ Mayor's Order 2021-109 (September 20, 2021).