



November 5, 2014

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Sharfstein,


At a recent meeting of the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) representative assembly, a meeting of 600+ educators representing 23 counties, concerns were raised regarding the flexibility in enforcement requested by a number of local education agencies relative to the provisions of COMAR 10.06.04.03 E&F and 10.06.04.06. Specifically, educators were concerned about the risk such an extension may present to them and their students.

In your September 12, 2014 letter to Dr. Lillian Lowery, it states that agencies must submit a final report demonstrating compliance by November 3, 2014. In order to address the issues raised by educators, can you please provide me with the following:

- Local education agencies (LEAs) that requested the waiver
- Number of students (by LEA) who were still outstanding for immunizations at the time of the waiver request
- Number of LEAs, if any, that did not demonstrate compliance by November 3
- Number of students who qualified for an exemption to not be vaccinated under the allowable exemptions outlined in COMAR 10.06.04.04 and 10.06.04.05
- Was this year an anomaly in terms of the number of extensions requested or does it represent what normally occurs?

I would also appreciate your insight as to how the granting of the extensions may or may not increase the risk to students and educators in the classroom.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at bweller@mseanea.org or 410/263-6600.

Sincerely,

Betty Weller
President

Maryland
State Education
Association

140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2003
t 800-448-6782
f 410-263-3605
marylandeducators.org

BETTY H. WELLER
President
CHERYL BOST
Vice President
DAVID E. HELFMAN
Executive Director

Great Public Schools
for EVERY Child