



## Polk County Health Department Immunization Q & A



**Question:**

How do you count back to determine whether the "Grace Period" rule applies?

**Answer:**

***Iowa Immunization Code states:***

Vaccine doses administered less than or equal to 4 days before the minimum interval or age shall be counted as valid. Doses administered greater than or equal to 5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age shall not be counted as valid doses and shall be repeated as appropriate.

To determine whether the 4 day grace period has been violated, you count in the following manner:

Example: Vaccine Given 2/10/06

Day 1	2/9/06	Valid Dose
Day 2	2/8/06	Valid Dose
Day 3	2/7/06	Valid Dose
Day 4	2/6/06	Valid Dose
Day 5	2/5/06	Invalid Dose - Needs to be repeated

**Question:**

How do you count forward when assigning an expiration date for a Provisional Certificate of Immunization?

**Answer:**

***Iowa Immunization Code states:***

The amount of time allowed for provisional enrollment shall be as soon as medically feasible but shall not exceed 60 calendar days. **The period of provisional enrollment shall begin on the date the provisional certificate is signed.** The person signing the provisional certificate shall assign an expiration date to the certificate and shall indicate the remaining immunizations required to qualify for a certificate of immunization.

The day you issue the provisional is **Day 1** and you count forward from that day.

Example: Today's Date: April 11 2016

**Day 1** - April 11th

**Day 60** - June 9th - Provisional would expire at the end of this day - student would not be allowed to return to school the following day without proof of up to date immunizations.

**Question:**

When a student needs more than 60 days to complete a vaccine series due to minimum spacing requirements (i.e., Td # 3 or IPV # 3) can we just cross off the dates on the expired provisional and write in new dates?

**Answer:**

No, a new Provisional Certificate must be issued.

***Iowa Immunization Code states:***

If at the end of the provisional enrollment period the applicant has not completed the required immunizations due to minimum interval requirements, **a new Iowa Department of Public Health Provisional Certificate of Immunization shall be issued.** All issued provisional certificates must be maintained with the original provisional certificate until the applicant submits a certificate of immunization.