

**STATE OF NEW YORK – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City/County Directors of Environmental Health  
District Directors

**FROM:** Michael J. Cambridge, Director *mjc*  
Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection

**SUBJECT:** Sunscreen Use at Children's Camps

**DATE:** September 13, 2012

For your information, consultation between the State Education Department (SED) and this Department regarding the importance of protecting children from potential overexposure to the sun has resulted in revisions to guidance pertaining to the use of sunscreen at schools and children's camps. A copy of the SED memorandum updating the guidance for schools is attached for your reference. By interagency agreement, the guidance is extended to children's camps.

The SED guidance which is applicable to schools and children's camps specifies that effective immediately, a medical provider order is no longer required to allow a child to carry and use sunscreen when it is used to protect against overexposure to the sun, the sunscreen is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for over-the-counter use, and the child's parent or guardian provides written permission for the child to carry and use sunscreen. Camp operators should review their policies regarding the use of sunscreen and may consider revising the health history or other forms to collect the necessary parental or guardian authorization to implement this guidance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your regional field coordinator.

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