



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**  
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*Commissioner*

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**  
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**OFFICE OF  
SCHOOL HEALTH**

April 14, 2010

Dear Health Care Provider,

As you know, when children enter New York City Schools parents must submit a "Child & Adolescent Health Exam Form" (form number CH-205). If the child has reached his or her fourth birthday, the health care provider is expected to provide a vision assessment which includes a separate visual acuity measurement for each eye and an evaluation for strabismus.

A recent review of our records reveals that separate measurements of each eye were provided only about half the time. Furthermore, in most cases when abnormal measurements were reported, the "Follow-up Needed" box was not completed.

Vision problems in young children are very common and may interfere with learning to read. Of particular importance are the 2-4% of young children whose visual acuity is significantly different in the two eyes. These children are at risk for amblyopia, the leading cause of monocular blindness in children and younger adults. Early treatment (before age 6-7) is associated with better outcomes.

We urge you to examine the visual acuity of every child and to record the individual eye measurements on the CH-205 form. Since many young children do not know their letters, you should consider having an alternate eye chart to use, if necessary. Children with a two line or greater difference between the eyes and those with significant myopia should be referred to an eye doctor for further evaluation. Doing so is likely to reduce the number of New York City residents with amblyopia related visual impairment.

Thank you very much for your help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Platt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roger Platt, M.D.