

STUDENTS

Immunization Requirements

I. In accordance with Code of Virginia relative to enrollment of certain children in public schools:

- A. No student shall be admitted by a school unless at the time of admission the student or his/her parent submits documentary proof of immunization on the State's School Entrance Health Form to the admitting official of the school or unless the student is exempted from immunization for medical or religious reasons, the student is a homeless child or youth as defined in Regulation 718-1, Students Experiencing Homelessness, or the student is in foster care as defined in Regulation 715-1, Admission Requirements.

If a student does not have documentary proof of required immunizations as shown in Attachment II, Minimum Immunization Requirements for Entry Into School and Day Care, the school shall notify the student or the parent that:

1. The student shall not be admitted without proof unless the student is exempted (see Attachment I), homeless, or in foster care.
2. The student shall be immunized and receive certification by a licensed physician, registered nurse or an employee of a local health department.

The school shall provide parents with information about the location of the health department and its immunization schedule.

B. Students who have incomplete immunizations shall be admitted conditionally if:

1. The student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and has provided the school with appropriate documentation.
2. The student provides documentation of a schedule for completion of the required doses.

Students who have been admitted conditionally shall have their records reviewed at the end of 90 days. Any student admitted conditionally and who fails to comply with his/her schedule for completion of the required immunizations shall be excluded from school until the immunizations are resumed. Any school days missed due to immunization non-compliance shall be unexcused absences.

- C. If a student is a homeless child or youth as defined in Regulation 718-1, Students Experiencing Homelessness, and has no documentary proof of immunizations, then that child shall be immediately referred to the school nurse who shall assist in obtaining the necessary immunizations by the county health department or other clinic or physician's office. The school staff shall allow the child to enroll in school.
- D. If a student is a foster child as defined in Regulation 715-1, Admission Requirements, and has no documentary proof of immunizations, he/shall be enrolled for up to 30 calendar days before providing proof of immunization if the person enrolling the student states in writing at the time of enrollment that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the student is in good health and free from communicable or contagious disease.

II. Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

- A. Religious and Medical Exemptions - No certification of immunization shall be required of any student for admission to school if:
 - 1. The student or the parent/guardian submits a Certification of Religious Exemption (Form CRE 1), Attachment I, to the admitting official of the school to which the student is seeking admission. Form CRE 1 is an affidavit stating that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student's religious tenets or practices. For a currently enrolled student any document present in the student's permanent school record claiming religious exemption, submitted prior to July 1, 1983, shall be acceptable for the purpose of school attendance; or
 - 2. The school has written certification from a physician or a local health department or documentation on the State School Health Entrance Form that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health. Such certification of medical exemption shall specify the nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicates immunization. For a currently enrolled student, any document attesting to the fact that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health shall be acceptable in lieu of the State Form.
 - 3. However, in either of these cases (1 or 2), in the event of an epidemic these children shall be excluded from school.

Students excluded from school under criteria 1 or 2 above shall be provided homework from their classes and shall be carried on the attendance rolls as excused absences for the duration of their exclusion from school.

The Director of Student Services and the Supervisor of School Health Services are responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

Legal reference:

Code of Virginia Section 22.1-271.2, Immunization Requirements

Code of Virginia Section 22.1-3.4, Enrollment of Certain Children Placed in Foster Care

McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act of 2001 (§11432)

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Student I.D. Number _____

The administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the above named student's/my religious tenets or practices. I understand, that in the occurrence of an outbreak, potential epidemic or epidemic of a vaccine-preventable disease in my/my child's school, the State Health Commissioner may order my/my child's exclusion from school, for my/my child's own protection, until the danger has passed.

Signature of parent/guardian/student Date

I hereby affirm that this affidavit was signed in my presence on

this _____ day of _____

Notary Public Seal

SCHOOL AND DAY CARE MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Documentary proof shall be provided of adequate age appropriate immunization with the prescribed number of doses of vaccine indicated below for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care center, nursery school, family day care home or developmental center. Vaccines must be administered in accordance with the harmonized schedule of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Family Physicians and must be administered within spacing and age requirements.

Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or Tdap) A minimum of 3 doses. A child must have at least one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the fourth birthday. If the child has received six doses of DTaP or DTP before the fourth birthday, additional doses are contraindicated. DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically exempt from the pertussis containing vaccine (DTaP or DTP). Adult Td is required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. **Effective July 1, 2006, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering the 6th grade, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.**

Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine This vaccine is required ONLY for children up to 60 months of age. A primary series consists of either 2 or 3 doses (depending on the manufacturer) followed by a booster dose at age 12-15 months. However, the child's current age and not the number of prior doses received govern the number of doses required. Unvaccinated children between the ages of 15 and 60 months are only required to have one dose of vaccine.

Hepatitis B Vaccine A complete series of 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine is required for all children. However, the FDA has approved a 2-dose schedule **ONLY** for adolescents 11-15 years of age AND **ONLY when the Merck Brand (RECOMBIVAX HB) Adult Formulation Hepatitis B Vaccine** is used. The 2 **RECOMBIVAX HB Adult doses must be separated by a minimum of 4 months**. If the 3-dose hepatitis B vaccine schedule is used, there should be at least 1 month spacing between the 1st and 2nd doses and 4 months spacing between the 1st and 3rd doses.

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine A minimum of 2 measles, 1 mumps, and 1 rubella. (Most children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the combination vaccine MMR). First dose must be administered at age 12 months (365 days) or older. If first dose is administered before 12 months of age, the dose does not count and must be repeated. Second dose of measles vaccine does not have to be administered until age 4-6 years (usually at entry to kindergarten) but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2. The minimum interval is 4 weeks (28 days).

Pneumococcal (PCV) Vaccine: Two to four doses, dependent on age at first dose, of pneumococcal 7-valent conjugate vaccine for children less than two years of age.

Polio Vaccine A minimum of 3 doses of **all IPV or all OPV** polio vaccine. If a child has had only three doses of polio vaccine, one dose must have been administered on or after the fourth birthday. However, a child who has received four doses of any combination of IPV or OPV polio vaccine before the fourth birthday is adequately immunized and does not need a dose after the fourth birthday.

Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine All susceptible children born on and after January 1, 1997, shall be required to have a dose of chickenpox vaccine not earlier than the age of 12 months (365 days).

NOTE: The 4-day grace period for administration of vaccines does not apply to MMR vaccine or Varicella vaccine.

For further information, please consult The State Board of Health's **Regulations for the Immunization of School Children** or call the Division of Immunization at 1-800-568-1929 (in state only) or 804-864-8055.