



School Immunization Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

IF A KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE STUDENT HAS HAD NO VARICELLA IMMUNIZATIONS, WHAT IS THE MINIMUM INTERVAL BETWEEN DOSE ONE AND DOSE TWO?

The ACIP recommendations indicate three months. An In-progress card is acceptable for this three-month interval.

WILL KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD CHICKENPOX DISEASE THAT WAS NOT CONFIRMED BY A DOCTOR NEED VARICELLA IMMUNIZATIONS TO BEGIN SCHOOL?

Yes, students beginning kindergarten during or after the 2010-2011 school year must have a varicella immunization. Documentation of chickenpox by a parent will no longer be accepted as proof of disease.

WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR A NURSE PRACTITIONER TO PROVIDE A STATEMENT THAT A STUDENT HAS HAD CHICKENPOX?

No, students beginning kindergarten during or after the 2010-2011 school year are required to have written documentation of chickenpox signed by a licensed doctor of medicine (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO). These statements may be brought in by the parent from the doctor's office, or faxed directly to the school from the doctor's office.

ARE STATEMENTS SIGNED BY PARENTS IDENTIFYING THE DATE A CHILD HAD CHICKENPOX ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION FOR 2ND-6TH GRADES?

Yes, the rule change only affects incoming kindergarten and first grade students.

WHY WAS THE STATEMENT "MAXIMUM NEEDED FOUR DOSES" REMOVED FROM THE POLIO REQUIREMENT?

In summer 2009, ACIP updated its recommendations for use of inactivated poliovirus vaccines (IPV) partly in response to the availability of newer combination vaccines that include an IPV component (e.g. Pentacel). ACIP now recommends that children receive at least one dose of IPV between age 4 – 6 years old, even if they have previously received four doses or more. The interval between the next-to-last and last dose should be at least 6 months. This means that some children may receive a total of four doses or more, a practice the ACIP considers acceptable.

IF STUDENTS ARE REPEATING A GRADE, DO THEY FOLLOW THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE THEY ARE CURRENTLY IN OR THE GRADE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN?

Requirements must be followed for the current grade. Missouri school immunization requirements are based on grades, not age.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE (IMMUNIZATION RECORD) OF IMMUNIZATIONS FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI?

Satisfactory evidence of immunization means a statement, certificate, or record from a physician or his or her designee, other recognized health facility, immunization registry, school record, or child care record stating that the required immunizations have been given to the individual. This statement, certificate, or record shall provide documentation of the specific antigen and the month, day, and year of the vaccine administration.

*Taken from information provided by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services/Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance – updated August 2011.