



February 9, 2018

Dear Immunization Provider:

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 44-29-180, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, the 2018-2019 "Required Standards of Immunization for School Attendance" and the "Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance" are enclosed. These requirements are effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Changes for the 2018-2019 School Year

- 4th grade has been added to the requirement for (2) doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.
- 6th grade has been added to the requirement for three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine **with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.**
- 12th grade has been added to the requirement for (1) Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) booster. Tdap is routinely administered at 11-12 years of age; however, a dose administered on or after the seventh birthday will meet this requirement.

General Guidance Points

- On the day of an office visit, if a child cannot obtain all age-eligible vaccine(s) required for day care and/or school for a **medical reason**, a medical exemption (temporary or permanent as determined by the clinician) must be issued for the certificate to be valid. DHEC supports the provision of all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines according to the current ACIP schedules and vaccine specific recommendations (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>).
- **SC State Law only allows the following exemptions to vaccine requirements:**
 - **Medical Exemption:** A valid SC Certificate of Immunization (DHEC 2740) which includes all administered vaccines to date and notes a documented medical exemption (temporary or permanent) for vaccines which are not administered for a medical reason. For temporary medical exemptions, an expiration date in the future is noted when next immunizations are due to be obtained. **THIS IS THE ONLY EXEMPTION A PRIVATE IMMUNIZATION PROVIDER CAN AUTHORIZE.**
 - **Religious Exemption:** A SC Certificate of Religious Exemption (DHEC 1126) is issued by a DHEC Health Department. The parent or guardian must sign the DHEC form in the presence of a notary.
 - **Special Exemption:** A SC Certificate of Special Exemption (DHEC 1123) may be issued by the school to a student that has been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. This exemption is only valid for 30 calendar days for the current enrollment and may be issued only once.
- A valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization **for all enrolled children, 3 months of age and older**, must be maintained by public and private childcare facilities (as defined in Section 63-13-20 of SC Code of Laws); public, private, and parochial schools, grades kindergarten through 12th grade; and child development programs under the control of the Department of Education.
- Doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid doses according to accepted practice standards for the minimum age(s) and intervals, as well as all ACIP comprehensive and vaccine specific recommendations (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>). The "Minimum Ages and Intervals Between Doses of Routinely Recommended Vaccines" table is enclosed for your reference.
- Vaccine administration must be in accordance with CDC: General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization. (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html>).
- Children enrolled in PreK or 4K programs and younger must meet Day Care Requirements (see enclosed), even if attendance is in a school setting. Children enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten through Grade 12 must meet School Requirements (see enclosed).
- Children enrolled in grades 5K or greater who also attend a childcare facility (e.g., after school and/or summer program) must meet School Requirements and have a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization on file at both day care and school.

DHEC appreciates your continuing efforts to protect South Carolina children from vaccine-preventable diseases. Please advise your patients to receive all age-appropriate vaccines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Procedural and other questions may be directed to DHEC's Immunization Division at 803-898-0460 or 1-800-277-4687 (1-800-27-SHOTS), or immunize@dhec.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

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2018-2019 REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, "no superintendent of an institution of learning, no school board or principal of a school...may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.... Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted."

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following minimum immunization requirements are necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades five-year-old kindergarten through twelve (5K-12):

Minimum Requirements:^{1,5}

Vaccine for:	Grade	Grade Level Requirements: <i>Grade level requirements apply to all students entering or retained in the grades specified.</i>
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis	5K – 12	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday ²
Tdap Booster	7-12	One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine received on or after the 7 th birthday ³ If necessary, this dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis noted above.
Polio⁴	5K-6 7-12	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) with at least one (1) dose received on or after the 4 th birthday OR four (4) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) before 4 th birthday (if all doses separated by at least 4 weeks) - Follow CDC recommendations for students 18 years of age and older⁴
Rubeola (Measles) Rubella (German Measles) Mumps	5K – 12	Two (2) doses of rubeola (Measles) vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 4 weeks One (1) dose of rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday One (1) dose of mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday
Hepatitis B	5K – 12	Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine with the third dose received \geq 24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose
Varicella	5K - 4 5-12	Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 4 weeks or a positive history of disease. One (1) dose of varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease

¹When issuing a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid according to accepted practice standards for minimum age(s) and intervals.

²For unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children 7 years of age and older, refer to currently published ACIP Catch-Up Schedule for number of doses necessary to complete diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis series and meet this requirement.

³Tdap is routinely administered at 11-12 years of age; however, a dose administered on or after the seventh birthday will meet this requirement.

⁴Routine vaccination of persons 18 years of age and older who reside in the United States is not necessary or recommended, unless in the following high risk categories: 1) traveler to areas where poliomyelitis is endemic or epidemic; 2) laboratory worker handling specimens that may contain polioviruses; or 3) healthcare worker who has close contact with patients who might be excreting wild polioviruses.

⁵Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, students may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

Medical Exemption: The Medical Exemption section of the SC Certificate of Immunization should only be completed when a child has a permanent or temporary medical reason for exclusion from receipt of vaccine(s). The Medical Exemption section must be completed by a licensed Physician (MD or DO) or his/her authorized representative (e.g. Physician's Assistant - PA, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - APRN).

Religious Exemption: A religious exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating that one or more immunizations conflicts with their religious beliefs. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption can only be obtained from the Department of Health and Environmental Control

Special Exemptions: A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption, signed by the school principal or his/her authorized representative, may be issued to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records from their former area of residence or to other students who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. This exemption may be issued only once and is valid for only thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment. Upon expiration of this special exemption, the student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption.