

Student Immunizations

STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the requirements and recommendations for immunizations for new school enterers. The standards of practice in this policy incorporate the most current recommendations issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

2.0 DEFINITIONS:

2.1 Child – means any person between the ages of birth and eighteen years or up to twenty-one years of age when the child is attending school.

2.2 Contraindication – means a medical condition which renders an immunization improper for a particular individual.

2.3 Delinquent – means lacking age appropriate immunizations which are required to have been completed prior to school entry.

2.4 Medical exemption – means an exemption from any of the requirements for compulsory immunization due to a contraindication or precaution to any or all of the vaccines required by law and this policy.

2.5 New School Enterer – means any child entering a school building housing kindergarten through twelfth grade students to attend classes or programs or to participate in extracurricular activities taking place in the school building and includes children entering pre-school programs as well as all students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade and students who transfer into a West Virginia school from another state.

2.6 State Health Officer – means the person appointed to serve as State Health Officer who is a licensed physician authorized to practice medicine in accordance with West Virginia Code §16-1-5

3.0 Recommended Immunization Schedules:

3.1 The recommended immunization schedule for childhood immunization is the schedule approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, The American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. This schedule is issued annually and can be found at www.cdc.gov under Immunization Schedules.

4.0 Immunizations required for School Entry and specifics of each immunization requirement

4.1 All new school enterers attending a West Virginia school for the first time shall show proof of immunization against the following diseases:

- A. Diphtheria
- B. Hepatitis B
- C. Mumps
- D. Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- E. Poliomyelitis

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- F. Rubella
- G. Rubeola (measles)
- H. Tetanus
- I. Varicella (chicken pox)

- 4.2** Dosage and interval schedule for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccines are as follows:
- a. Before being admitted to school, each child shall show proof that he or she has received a minimum of four doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, with the last dose having been received on or after the child’s fourth birthday and prior to school entry, and
 - b. The interval between the third and fourth or final dose shall be at least six months; and
 - c. Children seven years of age and older may receive tetanus, diphtheria (Td) vaccines in lieu of DTaP vaccine. A single dose of Tdap vaccine should be considered in the series, if age appropriate.
- 4.3** Children entering school shall show proof that they have received at least three doses of HEPATITIS B vaccine with at least one dose having been given on or after six months of age. The second and third doses should be separated by at least two months.
- 4.4** Children entering school shall show proof that they have received two doses of RUBEOLA (MEASLES) vaccine, the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose no less than one month after the first dose.
- 4.5** Children entering school shall show proof that they have received two doses of MUMPS vaccine, the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose no less than one month after the first dose.
- 4.6** Dosage and interval schedule the POLIO vaccine is as follows:
- 4.6a Before being admitted to school each child shall show proof that he or she has received a minimum of three doses of trivalent polio vaccine (PV) with the last dose having been received on or after the child’s fourth birthday and prior to school entry.
- 4.7** Children entering school shall show proof that they have received at least two doses of RUBELLA vaccine, the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose no less than one month after the first dose.
- 4.8** Children entering school shall show proof that they have received two doses of VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX) vaccine, the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose no less than three months after the first. Immunity may be shown through a written statement of a parent or legal guardian attesting to the fact of their child’s history of chicken pox.
- 4.9** For preschool children entering a school housing other children in grades kindergarten through twelfth, the above immunization requirements hold to the extent that they are ge appropriate in accordance with the immunization schedules referenced in section 3 of this policy.

5.0 Compliance with the Law

- 5.1** If a child has been determined to be medically exempt from receiving one or more vaccinations, in accordance with the provisions of §64-95-9, the certificate of immunization shall note specifically which vaccine the child is exempt from, the reason for the exemption, and whether or not the reason for the exemption is permanent or temporary. If the exemption is temporary, a notation shall be made as to the future date at which the exemption should be reevaluated.

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5.2 Exemptions may be granted only by the Commissioner or a physician appointed by the Commissioner to serve as Immunization Officer. A request for an exemption must be accompanied by the certification of a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization is contraindicated or there exists a specific precaution to a particular vaccine.

5.3 A student who does not have a completed certificate of immunization or other similar medical record of immunizations shall show proof that he or she has received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines in order to be provisionally enrolled in school.

5.4 Provisional enrollment may continue for the time medically necessary to complete the missing vaccinations. At no time should the provisional enrollment period exceed 8 months from school entry, the time medically necessary to complete all required childhood vaccine series under the standard catch-up schedule. After attending school for the provisional enrollment time period, all provisionally enrolled students shall show proof to the school that they have completed all of the required immunizations.

5.5 Children who are delinquent for any required vaccinations, or who have exceeded the provisional enrollment period, will be considered out of compliance with the law and may be required to stop attending school until the appropriate vaccine(s) are received and the record are amended.

6.0 Proof of Immunity

6.1 Proof that a child has received the immunizations required by law and this policy, in the correct number and spacing of doses, shall be recorded on a completed document, such as a certificate of immunization, for all new school enterers.

6.2 The documentary evidence of immunizations shall contain the day, month and year of each vaccine received by the child or sufficient information of the time interval between doses to enable verification that the minimum intervals required or suggested by this rule have been observed.

7.0 Vaccine Requirements for Adolescents

7.1 State law requires that all children entering school in West Virginia in grades 7 and 12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and meningococcal disease unless properly medically exempted.

7.2 7th grade: Tdap booster dose, MCV4

7.3 12th grade: Tdap booster dose, MCV4 (second dose of MCV4 is required if the first dose was received before the 16th birthday)

7.4 No provisional enrollment is permitted for adolescent vaccines.

8.0 SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this policy or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions of applications of this policy.

Adopted: Student Immunization, 2008

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