



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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March 10, 2011

RE: Required Immunizations for the 2011-2012 School Year

Dear Parents of Students in Texas Schools, Kindergarten through 12th Grades:

Immunizations are an important part of public health, and state law requires students in Texas schools to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) understands that it can be hard to find the time and money to get your children vaccinated. We would like to stress the importance of getting these required vaccines at the earliest possible time, to avoid the back-to-school immunization rush that occurs every year during the month of **August**.

To determine the specific number of doses that will be required for your child, please read the document included with this letter, entitled *2011-2012 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students*. This document and more information about school vaccine requirements are available on the Immunization Branch website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com (click on the 'School/ Childcare Requirements' link).

Please be aware that students without the proper documentation of the required immunizations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school.

If you need help determining which vaccines your child needs for the 2011-2012 school year and when to get the vaccines, please contact your child's doctor or immunization clinic. For information on where you can take your child to get free or reduced-cost vaccines call 2-1-1. This is a three digit toll free number that provides information on health and social services for your area. You may also call the Immunization Branch Customer Service number (800) 252-9152 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adolfo M. Valadez".

Adolfo M. Valadez, M.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Commissioner
Division for Prevention and Preparedness Services

Enclosure



2011-2012 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12

This chart summarizes the vaccine requirements incorporated in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 25 Health Services, Sections 97.61 to 97.72. This chart is not intended as a substitute for consulting the TAC, which has other provisions and details. [Click here](#) for complete TAC language. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is granted authority to set immunization requirements by the Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Health & Safety, Subchapter A, General Provisions.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child-care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school in Texas.

Vaccine Required (Attention to notes and footnotes)	Minimum Number of Doses Required by Grade Level					NOTES
	K - 2 nd	3 rd - 6 th	7 th	8 th - 9 th	10 th - 12 th	
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/Tdap) ¹	5 doses or 4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses	3 dose primary series and 1 Tdap/Td booster <i>within last 5 years</i>	3 dose primary series and 1 Tdap/Td booster <i>within last 10 years</i>		5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine; one dose must have been received on or after the 4 th birthday. However, 4 doses meet the requirement if the 4 th dose was received on or after the 4 th birthday. For students aged 7 years and older, 3 doses meet the requirement if one dose was received on or after the 4 th birthday. For 7th grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required if at least 5 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine. For 8th- 12th grade: 1 dose of Tdap is required when 10 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in place of Tdap if a medical contraindication to pertussis exists.
Polio ¹	4 doses or 3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses	4 doses of polio; one dose must be received on or after the 4 th birthday. However, 3 doses meet the requirement if the 3 rd dose was received on or after the 4 th birthday.
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella ^{1,2} (MMR)	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses		2 doses	The first dose of MMR must be received on or after the 1 st birthday. For K - 2nd grade, 2 doses of MMR are required. For 3rd - 12th grade, 2 doses of a measles-containing vaccine, and one dose each of rubella and mumps vaccine is required.
Hepatitis B ²	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	For students aged 11-15 years, 2 doses meet the requirement if adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) was received. Dosage and type of vaccine must be clearly documented. (Two 10 mcg/1.0 ml of Recombivax).
Varicella ^{1,2,3}	2 doses	1 dose	2 doses		1 dose	The first dose of varicella must be received on or after the first birthday. For grades K - 2nd and 7th - 9th 2 doses are required. 1 dose is required for all other grade levels. For any student who receives the first dose on or after 13 years of age, 2 doses are required.
Meningococcal			1 dose			
Hepatitis A ^{1,2}	2 doses					The first dose of hepatitis A must be received on or after the first birthday.

¹ Receipt of the dose up to (and including) 4 days before the birthday will satisfy the school entry immunization requirement.

² Serologic confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, or varicella or serologic evidence of infection is acceptable in place of vaccine.

³ Previous illness may be documented with a written statement from a physician, school nurse, or the child's parent or guardian containing wording such as: "This is to verify that (name of student) had varicella disease (chickenpox) on or about (date) and does not need varicella vaccine." This written statement will be acceptable in place of any and all varicella vaccine doses required.

Exemptions

The law allows (a) physicians to write a statement stating that the vaccine(s) required would be medically harmful or injurious to the health and well-being of the child, and (b) parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The law does not allow parents/guardians to elect an exemption simply because of inconvenience (for example, a record is lost or incomplete and it is too much trouble to go to a physician or clinic to correct the problem). Schools and child-care facilities should maintain an up-to-date list of students with exemptions, so they may be excluded in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.

Instructions for requesting the official exemption affidavit that must be signed by parents/guardians choosing the exemption for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, can be found at www.ImmunizeTexas.com. Original Exemption Affidavit must be completed and submitted to the school or child-care facility.

For children claiming medical exemptions, a written statement by the physician must be submitted to the school or child-care facility.

Provisional Enrollment

All immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires that students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school. A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

Documentation

Since many types of personal immunization records are in use, any document will be acceptable provided a physician or public health personnel has validated it. The month, day, and year that the vaccination was received must be recorded on all school immunization records created or updated after September 1, 1991.

