

203-AR-1 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

The district must exclude students who have not obtained the required immunizations outlined below from admittance or attendance until they provide proof of immunization or immunity, or if the student's circumstances fall within the following provisions:

1. Exempt for medical or religious reasons, in accordance with law, regulations and Board policy.
2. Homeless student who has not been immunized or is unable to provide immunization records, in accordance with law, regulations and Board policy.
3. Foster care student or student transferring into a school within the Commonwealth, who must meet the requirements listed below.
4. Provisionally admitted by the Superintendent or designee after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and meeting the requirements listed below.
5. Admitted in accordance with applicable programs or guidance regarding school immunizations from the PA Department of Health.

Required for Attendance (K-12)

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis – four (4) or more properly spaced doses administered in a combination form (diphtheria, and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) or diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis (DTP)). If the student has a contraindication to pertussis vaccine, the student shall receive diphtheria-tetanus toxoid vaccine (DT) to complete the vaccination series. The fourth dose will be administered on or after the fourth birthday.

Poliomyelitis – four (4) properly spaced doses of either oral polio vaccine or inactivated polio vaccine, which may be administered as a single antigen vaccine, or in a combination form. The fourth dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday and at least six (6) months after the previous dose.

Measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella (German measles) – One (1) of the following:

1. Multiple antigens – two (2) properly spaced doses of live attenuated measles, mumps, rubella combination vaccine, the first dose administered at twelve (12) months of age or older.
2. Single antigens – in the event the antigens were given separately, and not in a combination vaccine, the dosage is as follows:

- a. Two (2) properly spaced doses of live attenuated measles vaccine, the first dose administered at twelve (12) months of age or older.
- b. One (1) dose of live attenuated rubella vaccine, administered at twelve (12) months of age or older.
- c. Two (2) properly spaced doses of live attenuated mumps vaccine, administered at twelve (12) months of age or older.

3. Evidence of immunity – may be shown by a history of measles and rubella immunity proven by laboratory testing by a laboratory with the appropriate certification and a written statement of a history of mumps disease from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Hepatitis B – three (3) properly spaced doses, or a two (2) dose vaccine regimen approved by the Food and Drug Administration, or documented immunity through a laboratory test. The vaccine may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form.

Varicella (Chickenpox) – two (2) properly spaced doses with the first dose administered at twelve (12) months of age or older, which may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in combination form. Evidence of immunity may be shown by a laboratory test or by a written statement from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Specific immunization schedules and additional information is available from Health Services.

Required for Entry Into 7th Grade/School Year When Student Turns Twelve (12) Years of Age

In addition to those required for attendance in K through 12, the following immunizations are required for entry into 7th grade or, in an ungraded class, in the school year when the student turns twelve (12) years of age:

1. Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) – one (1) dose of Tdap in a combination form.
2. Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV) – one (1) dose.

Required for Entry Into 12th Grade/School Year When Student Turns Eighteen (18) Years of Age

In addition to those required for attendance in K through 12, the following immunization is required for entry into 12th grade or, in an ungraded class, in the school year when the student turns eighteen (18) years of age:

1. Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV) – one dose. A dose of MCV received at the age of sixteen (16) years or older shall count as the 12th grade dose.

Vaccination Administration Grace Period

A vaccine dose administered within the four-day period prior to the minimum age for the vaccination or prior to the end of the minimum interval between doses will be considered a valid dose of the vaccine. A vaccine dose administered more than four (4) days prior to the minimum age or interval will be considered invalid, and the dose will have to be repeated. **This grace period is not applicable for use with the 28-day minimum interval between two live vaccines.**

Proof of Immunizations

Prior to or at school registration, parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the requirement to provide proof of immunizations.

Parents/Guardians of students who will be entering 7th and 12th grades shall also be provided with written notice in the school year prior to the student's entry into 7th or 12th grade, informing them of the requirements for the additional immunizations.

School staff who register students for enrollment in district schools will provide enrollment information to the certified school nurse at each building. The certified school nurse will verify that the vaccine and/or pertinent health information is received for each student prior to being admitted to district schools, subject to the exceptions noted below.

School health staff will monitor health records for students entering 7th and 12th grades to ensure written proof of immunization is received prior to the student's entry into 7th or 12th grade.

Proof of a record of immunization, which is a written document showing the date immunizations were administered, includes the following:

1. Physician's record.
2. Baby book.
3. School health record.

4. Family Bible.
5. Health Passport.
6. Other states' official immunization documents.
7. International Health Certificate.
8. Immigration records.
9. Similar documents or history.

District staff will maintain a Certificate of Immunization, in paper or electronic format, for each student enrolled in district schools, in accordance with state regulations.

A sample [Certificate of Immunization](#) may be obtained from the PA Department of Health.

Provisional Attendance

State regulations require that any student who has not completed the full series of required immunizations and has not been exempted from immunization requirements in accordance with Board policy and these administrative regulations will not be permitted to attend district schools.

If a student has not received a vaccine that only requires a single dose on the student's first day of attendance that school year, the student will not be admitted to school.

If a student has received at least one (1) dose of a multiple dose vaccine series by the first day of attendance that school year, the school administrator, school nurse or designee may provisionally admit the student when one (1) of the following occurs:

1. The student will receive the final dose in a multiple dose vaccine series within five (5) school days of the first day of attendance. The parent/guardian must provide proof of immunization on or before the fifth day of school attendance.
2. The student will receive the next scheduled dose in a multiple dose vaccine series within five (5) school days of the first day of attendance. The parent/guardian must provide a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day of attendance, scheduling the additional required doses and detailing the plan for completion of all required immunizations.
3. When the next dose in a multiple dose vaccine series is not medically appropriate during the five (5) school days following the first day of attendance, the

parent/guardian must provide a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day, scheduling the additional required dose and detailing the plan for completion of all required immunizations.

The medical certificate shall contain the detailed plan to ensure completion of all required immunizations for a student who has been provisionally admitted. The immunization requirements must be completed in accordance with the requirements detailed in the medical certificate.

A sample [Medical Certificate](#) may be obtained from the PA Department of Health.

The medical certificate will be reviewed at least every thirty (30) days by the school administrator, school nurse or designee. If, upon review, the requirements have not been met, the school administrator or designee may exclude the student from school.

Exceptions to Immunization Requirements

The immunization requirements of the state regulations do not apply to students in the following circumstances:

1. Homeless Students – the student has not been immunized or is unable to provide immunization records due to being homeless. The school will comply with laws, regulations and Board policy pertaining to homeless students.
2. Transfer Students – a student transferring into a school within the Commonwealth who is unable to provide immunization records immediately upon enrollment.

Parents/Guardians of transfer students will have thirty (30) days to:

- a. Provide the immunization records showing proof of required immunizations.
- b. Complete the required immunizations.
- c. Complete the medical certificate detailing the plan to complete the course of required immunizations for multiple dose vaccines.

A student who is unable to complete one (1) of the above requirements in thirty (30) days may be excluded at the end of the thirty-day period.

3. Foster Care Students – a student has not been immunized or is unable to provide immunization records due to being in foster care. The school will comply with laws, regulations and Board policy pertaining to foster care students.

Parents/Guardians of foster care students will have thirty (30) days to:

- a. Provide the immunization records showing proof of required immunizations.
- b. Complete the required immunizations.
- c. Complete the medical certificate detailing the plan to complete the course of required immunizations for multiple dose vaccines.

A student who is unable to complete one (1) of the above requirements in thirty (30) days may be excluded at the end of the thirty-day period.

PA Department of Health Temporary Waiver or Suspension -

The Pennsylvania Secretary of Health may issue a temporary waiver or suspension of the immunization requirements in cases where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize a nationwide shortage of a particular vaccine, or in the event an emergency or disaster impacts the ability of children to obtain immunizations or their immunization records.

School health staff will document a temporary suspension or waiver with the health records of students impacted by the suspension or waiver.

Reporting Immunization Data

The designated district administrator will report required immunization data to the PA Department of Health electronically by December 31 of each year, using a format and system provided by the Department of Health.

If the district will be unable to complete the report electronically, the designated district administrator will report the required immunization data to the Department of Health by December 15 of each year, using the form provided by the Department.

Duplicate reports will be submitted to the county health department if the school is located in a county with a full-time health administrator.

The school administrator or the administrator's designee will ensure that the school's identification information, including the name of the school, school district, county and school address, is correct, and will make any necessary corrections, prior to submitting the report.

Content of the reports will include the following information:

1. The month, day and year of the report.
2. The number of students attending school in each grade level, or in an ungraded school in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
3. The number of doses of each individual antigen given in each grade level, or in an ungraded school, in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
4. The number of students attending school who were classed as medical exemptions in each grade-level, or in an ungraded school, in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
5. The number of students attending school who were classed as religious exemptions in each grade level, or in an ungraded school, in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
6. The number of students provisionally admitted in each grade level or, in an ungraded school, in any age group as indicated on the reporting form.
7. The number of students in kindergarten or 7th grade, or in an ungraded school, twelve (12) years of age only, who were denied admission because of the student's inability to provide documentation of the required vaccine doses.
8. Other information as required by the Department of Health.

Resources

Resources from the PA Department of Health will assist school staff in reviewing student health records and immunization documents to ensure compliance with state requirements, and communicate required information to parents/guardians and the community:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/School.aspx>