

Immunization Requirements for School Entry

Documentary proof shall be provided of adequate age appropriate immunization with the prescribed number of doses of vaccine. All students prior to enrollment must meet immunization requirements.

In order for students to attend a school, Law of the Commonwealth of Virginia requires the following:

Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (Dtap, DPT, or Tdap): A minimum of 3 doses with one dose on or after the 4th birthday or six before the 4th birthday.

Tdap Booster:

Effective July 1, 2006, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering 6th grade, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. * For school year 2009-10 all 6th graders and newly enrolled 7th, 8th and 9th graders are to meet this minimum requirement for enrollment.

Polio Vaccine:

A minimum of 3 doses of all IPV or all OPV polio vaccine. If child has only 3 doses of polio vaccine, one dose must have been administered after the fourth birthday. However, a child who has received four doses before the fourth birthday is adequately immunized and does not need a dose after the fourth birthday.

A minimum of 2 measles, 1 mump s, and 1 rubella. (Most children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the combination vaccine MMR) First dose must be administered at age 12 months of older. Second dose does not have to be administered until age 4-5 years (usually at entry to Kindergarten) but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and 2.

Hepatitis B (HBV) Vaccine:

A complete series of 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine is required for all students.

Varicella (Chicken Pox) Vaccine:

All children born on and after January 1, 1997, shall be required to have one dose of chicken pox vaccine. First dose must be administered at age 12 months or older, unless Medical history and or lab tests have documented immunity.

Haemophilus Influenza Type b (HIB) Vaccine:

This vaccine is required ONLY for children up to 60 months of age. A primary series of either 2 or 3 doses. However the child's current age and not the number of prior doses received govern the number of doses required. Unvaccinated children between the ages of 15 and 60 months are only required to have one dose of vaccine. (This requirement will pertain to preschool enrollments)

- *The next two immunizations are **NOT REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL**, just information for parents:*

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV):

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, a complete series of three doses of HPV is required for female students (COV 32.1-46). The first dose shall be administered prior to entering the sixth grade. Unlike any other required vaccine, after reviewing educational materials approved by the Board of Health, the parent or guardian, at the parent's or guardian's sole discretion, may elect for the child not to receive the HPV.

Parents/guardians of rising sixth graders are requested to provide the school with documentation of the HPV vaccine administration if the student receives the immunization. Sixth grade girls who do not have proof of the HPV vaccine administration will not be excluded from school.

Any student whose immunizations are incomplete may be admitted conditionally if that student provides documentary proof at the time of enrollment of having received at least one dose of the required immunizations accompanied by a schedule for completion of the required doses within 90 days. Any student admitted conditionally and who fails to comply with his schedule for completion of the required immunizations shall be excluded from school until his immunizations are resumed.

Please refer to the school nurse at your school site or to the Health Services Department (757-494-7628) for any questions or need for clarification of immunization requirements.

Information on Recommended Immunizations

Meningococcal Meningitis Immunizations:

Meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection. It can occur in two forms – as either meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation that affects the brain and spinal cord,

or as meningococemia, the presence of bacteria in the blood. Meningococcal bacteria are transmitted through air droplets and direct contact with persons already infected with the disease. Meningitis usually peaks in late winter and early spring, overlapping flu season and symptoms can easily be mistaken for the flu. Because infection progresses rapidly, often in as little as 12 hours, prompt diagnosis and treatment are important to assuring recovery.

In February 2005, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued new recommendations stating that children and pre-adolescents (11 -- 12 year old), adolescents entering high schools, and college freshman in dormitories should be immunized against meningococcal disease. ACIP recommendations state that all other adolescents who wish to decrease their risk of meningococcal disease may elect to receive the vaccine.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/in-short-both.htm>

<http://www.nmaus.org>

<http://www.sanofipasteur.us>