

New Immunization Laws for Schools, Child Care, and Early Childhood Programs Begin September 2014

On Sept. 1, 2014, changes to Minnesota's Immunization Law will take effect. The changes were made to be more closely aligned with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. Medical and conscientious exemptions are still allowed under the law.

New Vaccine Requirements

The new vaccines that will require documentation of immunization or a legal exemption include:

- **Hepatitis B** – For all children over 2 months old enrolled or enrolling in child care or an early childhood program.
- **Hepatitis A** - For all children over 12 months old enrolled or enrolling in child care or an early childhood program.
- **Tdap** - For all students entering seventh grade. Students in eighth through 12th grade must show documentation if the school requests it. *This replaces the Td immunization requirement.*
- **Meningitis (meningococcal)** - For all students entering seventh grade. Students entering eighth through 12th grade must show documentation if the school requests it.

Changes to Previous Vaccine Requirements

- **Varicella** –Must have received varicella vaccine by 15 months of age to enroll in child care or early childhood programs. This applies to children turning 15 months old on Sept. 1, 2014 or after.

Additionally, the law clarifies that if a child had varicella disease:

- Before 2010, the parent or guardian needs to provide the month/year of the disease and their signature. A provider's signature is not required.
- After 2010, a provider's signature is required.
- **Polio and DTaP**– Starting Sept. 1, 2014, children enrolled or enrolling in child care, early childhood programs, and kindergarten through 12th grade and are completing their polio or DTaP series must have had their final:

- **Polio** dose (usually fourth dose) on or after their fourth birthday
- **DTaP** dose (usually fifth dose) vaccine on or after their fourth birthday.

Children who are considered to have completed the polio and DTaP series by Sept. 1, 2014, or who are previously determined to have completed the polio and DTaP series are exempt. This change will impact incoming kindergartners for the 2015-16 class and beyond.

- **Kindergarten through 12th grade** - The immunization law now specifies that students in all grades have documentation for all required vaccines. If the school requests immunization records for any student (K-12), parents must comply by providing the immunization dates or a legal exemption. The requirement for schools to report compliance at kindergarten and seventh grade to MDH remains unchanged.

Early Childhood Programs Now Included

New to Minnesota's Immunization Law are early childhood programs which include programs that provide instructional or other services to support children's learning and development and:

- Serve children from birth to kindergarten.
- Meet at least once a week for at least six weeks or more during the year.

Children enrolled or enrolling in these types of programs must provide proof of immunizations or have a legal exemption for:

- DTaP
- Polio
- MMR
- Hib
- Varicella
- Pneumococcal (2-24 months)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B

Note: Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) was previously included in the Immunization Law.

For more information

Visit www.health.state.mn.us/immunize (click on Immunization Laws in the left-hand column) or call the Immunization Program at 651-201-5503, 1-800-657-3970.

Are Your Kids Ready?

Minnesota's Immunization Law

Immunization Requirements

The following immunizations are required beginning Sept. 1, 2014.

To enter into child care, early childhood programs, and elementary or secondary schools (public or private), children need to have certain immunizations. Use this chart as a quick reference to determine which vaccines are required for enrollment. See below for exemption information.

Birth through 4 years Early childhood programs & Child care	Age: 5 through 6 years ² For Kindergarten	Age: 7 through 11 years For 1st through 6 th grade	Age: 12 years and older For 7 th through 12 th grade
Hepatitis A			
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B 3 doses	Hepatitis B 3 doses	Hepatitis B ³ 3 doses
DTaP/DT	DTaP 5 doses <small>5th shot not needed if 4th was after age 4</small>	At least 3 tetanus and diphtheria containing doses	Tdap ⁴ at age 11-12 years
Polio	Polio 4 doses <small>4th polio not needed if 3rd was after age 4</small>	Polio At least 3 doses	Polio At least 3 doses
MMR	MMR 2 doses	MMR 2 doses	MMR 2 doses
Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b			Meningococcal ⁵ at age 11-12 years
Pneumococcal age 2-24 months			
Varicella ¹	Varicella ¹ 2 doses	Varicella ¹ 2 doses	Varicella ¹ 2 doses

Immunizations recommended but not required by the Immunization Law:

Influenza

Recommended annually for all children age 6 months and older

Rotavirus

Recommended for infants

Human papillomavirus

Recommended at age 11 years

¹ If the child has already had chickenpox disease, varicella shots are not required. If the disease occurred after 2010, the child's doctor must sign a form.

² First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and DTaP/DT schedules for kindergarten.

³ An alternate 2-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids from age 11 through 15 years.

⁴ Proof of at least three doses of diphtheria and tetanus vaccination needed. If a child received Tdap at age 7-10 years another dose is not needed at age 11-12 years. However, if it was only a Td a Tdap dose at age 11-12 years is needed.

⁵ A booster dose is required at age 16 years or three years later if the first dose was given between age 13-15 years.

Exemptions

To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they've had these immunizations or file a legal exemption with the school.

Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

Looking for Vaccination Records?

For copies of your child's vaccination records, talk to your doctor or call the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) at 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970.