



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Nurses
From: Phyllis Lewis, School Health Services Coordinator; Gary Green, Director of Student Services;
Richard Hogue, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Support
Date: June 28, 2010
Re: New immunization requirements, exemptions, and reporting

As you are aware, there are new immunization requirements for students entering preschool or kindergarten as well as for students entering Grades 6-12. Included with this memo are the January 2010 joint letter from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the ISDH issued *School Immunization Requirement FAQs* document. These documents provide information on the immunizations, the exemptions, and the reporting requirements. Also included for review are the following documents: (1) ISDH Minimum Immunization Requirements for School Entry, (2) a quick reference chart, (3) a letter to school nurses, and (4) a reminder notice you may use to send to parents. A Spanish version of this reminder to parents will be available online very soon at www.doe.in.gov/sservices/healthservices/index.html.

Schools may allow a student without the requisite immunizations to attend school for 20 days, during which time the student should obtain the immunization(s). There are three exceptions to the mandatory immunizations: (1) a medical exemption in which the student's doctor certifies that a particular immunization is detrimental to the student's health, (2) the parent's written objection to the immunization based on religious grounds, or (3) laboratory evidence of immunity for measles, chickenpox, mumps, Hepatitis B, rubella, or polio.

The school may also allow a student without the requisite immunizations to attend school beyond the 20 day "grace" period based on extreme circumstances and provision of a schedule for obtaining the necessary immunizations. A student is entitled to attend school without having the required immunizations if s/he provides (1) a written statement from the health department or health care provider expressing that the student's immunization schedule has been delayed due to extreme circumstances, and (2) a schedule for completing the required immunizations. "Extreme circumstances" are not defined by statute, rule, ISDH, or IDOE.

The Department does not collect data on the immunization status of individual students. ISDH requires a summary report on the immunization status only for students in kindergarten, first grade, and sixth grade. The summary report is due to ISDH on November 1, 2010.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State Department of Health

An Equal Opportunity Employer

January 30, 2009

SUBJECT: School Immunization Requirements

Dear School Superintendents, Principals, and Nurses,

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) met with representatives from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Indiana Association of School Nurses (IASN) to review current immunization recommendations published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to discuss potential revisions to our school immunization requirements. The outcome of that discussion is summarized below.

Immunization Requirements:

1. The Indiana State Department of Health does not plan to change school immunization requirements for the **2009-2010** school year. Please be aware that if changes to school requirements are enacted during the current legislative session, we may not know about them until later in the spring. For a current list of requirements, please go to https://chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/chirp_docs.htm. To view current legislative activity, please go to <http://www.in.gov/apps/lsa/session/billwatch/billinfo>.
2. We anticipate that the following changes will be required for the **2010-2011** school year:
 - a. One meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) will be required for all students entering 6th -12th grades.
 - b. One Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) booster will be required after 10 years of age for all students entering 6th -12th grades.
3. We urge school district administrative and nursing staff to send information about pertussis and the Tdap vaccine home with students who will be eligible for the vaccine next fall. This information will be available on both the DOE and Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) websites by March, 2009.
4. We urge school district administrative and nursing staff to be proactive in collecting and recording the necessary documentation for students to ensure compliance once these changes go into effect.
5. We remind school district administrative and nursing staff that IC 20-30-5-18 requires schools to send information to ALL students, parents or guardians about meningitis and the meningococcal vaccine. Updated information is currently available on both the DOE and CHIRP websites.

Immunization Reporting Requirements:

1. School immunization reporting requirements will not change for the **2009-2010** school year, unless this is mandated legislatively.
2. We anticipate that the following changes *will be required* for the **2010-2011** school year:
 - a. All schools reporting to ISDH under IC 20-34-4-6 will be required to use CHIRP to record immunization data for all students in K, 1st and 6th grades. Please keep in mind that Indiana Code requires that each school shall keep immunization records for every student who enrolls. According to IC 20-34-4-1a., "The records must be kept uniformly throughout Indiana according to procedures prescribed by the state department of health."
 - b. Schools that do not have the capacity to record immunization data electronically will be exempt on a case-by-case basis. Paper reporting will be accepted from exempt schools.
3. A special thank you to school nurses who have completed immunization data entry into CHIRP for all their students. Please continue to enter your kindergarten and new students as they enroll.
4. For those schools that have begun this process, please continue entering student immunization data into CHIRP, focusing on grades K and 5 this spring (next year's 1st and 6th graders), and adding new kindergarten students after the start of school in the fall.
5. For those who have not yet begun entering immunization data into CHIRP, please call the CHIRP help desk at (888)227-4439, and we will be happy to get you signed on and started.

ISDH looks forward to continued partnership with IDOE, IASN, and all school nurses and administrators as we work to provide healthy, safe learning environments for children and teachers in Indiana schools.

Sincerely,

Joan Duwve, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director
Indiana State Department of Health

Phyllis Lewis, R.N.
School Health Services Coordinator
Indiana Department of Education

**School Immunization Requirement FAQs
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
2010-2011 School Year**

1. Are there any additions to required immunizations for the 2010-2011 school year?

Yes. In addition to the previously required immunizations:

Students entering preschool or kindergarten must now have 2 appropriately documented varicella vaccines, separated by at least 3 months, or physician documentation of disease history, or laboratory evidence of immunity.

Students entering grades 6 – 12 must have appropriate documentation of the following vaccinations: Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap); meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4 – Menactra); 2 varicella vaccinations appropriately spaced per CDC guidelines, or documentation of disease history, or laboratory evidence of immunity.

2. Are immunizations required for all children enrolled in school?

Yes. Students in all grades are required to meet the minimum immunization requirements as described on the document "MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY 2010-2011." Immunization requirements extend to children ages 3 through 5 attending special education programs, child care, or preschool within the school.

3. What information must be included on the physician's statement to document immunization?

The statement must include the student's name and date of birth, the vaccine given and date (month/day/year) of each immunization, and the signature of a medical provider.

4. What is considered adequate documentation of an immunization history?

Adequate documentation is as follows: a physician's written documentation, an immunization record from another school corporation, or an immunization record in the Indiana Immunization Registry (CHIRP) or printed record from another state registry. This documentation must include the month, day, and year each dose of vaccine was administered.

5. What is "laboratory evidence of immunity"?

Laboratory evidence of immunity is a blood test for disease-specific immune globulin that measures immunity to disease. This is often used to confirm immunity when immunization records are not available, or a parent reports a history of disease.

6. Who should interpret lab results for evidence of immunity?

Laboratory results for evidence of disease immunity must be ordered by a physician. The ordering physician is responsible for interpreting the results and determining adequate evidence of immunity based on current medical guidelines.

7. Is lab evidence of immunity acceptable for ALL school required immunizations?

No. Lab evidence is NOT acceptable for Diphtheria, Pertussis, or Tetanus.

Laboratory evidence of immunity may be used in place of immunization requirements for the following school required immunizations:

Measles	Mumps	Rubella
Chickenpox	Hepatitis B	Polio

8. Do schools provide summary reports to ISDH on the immunization status of students in all grades?

While all students enrolled in school are required to be up-to-date on all required immunizations, schools only provide summary data to ISDH on students enrolled in kindergarten, first, and sixth grades at this time.

9. If a child has an exemption on file, may he/she be counted as complete?

No. If a child has an exemption on file for any immunization, he/she must be reported under "Exemptions".

10. Do schools need to report immunization data for all 6th grade immunizations?

Yes, including varicella and Hepatitis B, MCV4, and Tdap.

- 11. What is the deadline for reporting school immunization data?**
The deadline for reporting school immunization data is November 1st.
- 12. Why does the Quick Reference Guide indicate immunization requirements for all grades if we only need to report kindergarten, first, and sixth grades?**
While reporting is only required for kindergarten, first, and sixth grades, schools are required by law (IC 20-34-4-2) to ensure that all students have received all immunizations required by the Indiana State Department of Health.
- 13. Does the Indiana State Department of Health determine if a child is excluded from school for incomplete immunizations?**
No. School exclusion is determined by the school according to IC 20-34-4-5.
- 14. What immunization education materials must be provided to the parents of enrolled students?**
Meningococcal disease—all grades;
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection—6th grade girls.
- 15. Are schools required to collect the response form included with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection educational materials?**
Yes. Schools are required to collect HPV response forms from parents of sixth grade girls. However, forms should not include the student's name and should not be returned to ISDH. Schools will complete a summary report of responses received from HPV forms and submit the report to ISDH along with the other immunization reports.
- 16. Are schools required to send parents information about Pertussis and the Tdap vaccine?**
No. Indiana State Department of Health recommends that schools send this information home to parents, however it is not required.
- 17. What is the four-day grace period and when can it be used?**
CDC and ACIP allow a 4-day grace period. If a vaccine is given up to 4 days before the minimum recommended age for administration of the vaccine, it can be counted as valid. However, this does not change the recommended schedule for routine vaccine administration.
- 18. What is the minimum age for MMR vaccine to be counted as a valid dose?**
For the MMR to be counted as a valid dose, it must have been given on or after the first birthday. The four day grace period is applicable to MMR vaccine.
- 19. When are 4 doses of Polio vaccine required?**
Four doses of polio are considered a complete series, with the fourth dose administered on or after the 4th birthday. Three doses are acceptable if the third dose was given on or after the 4th birthday and only one type of vaccine was used (all OPV or all IPV).
- 20. What are the minimum intervals for Hepatitis B vaccine?**
The minimum intervals between vaccine doses are:
Dose 1 and 2 is 4 weeks (28 days)
Dose 2 and 3 is 8 weeks (56 days)
Dose 1 and 3 is 16 weeks (112 days)
Note: The minimum age for the 3rd dose of Hepatitis B vaccine is 24 weeks (164 days).
- 21. If there is an extended interval between doses of Hepatitis B, does the student need to start the series over?**
No. The hepatitis B series should never be restarted or additional doses given due to an extended interval between doses. The student should just complete the series with the remaining dose(s) due.
- 22. Is a second dose of varicella vaccine required?**
A second dose is required for students entering preschool, kindergarten, and 6th – 12th grades for 2010-2011.
- 23. Is a doctor's statement required as proof of chickenpox disease?**
a. For children entering preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grades, a signed statement by a health care provider, including date of disease, is required to document history of chickenpox disease.

- b. For children entering grades 2-12, documentation from a parent is sufficient. A written statement should include date of disease, a parent's signature, and date of signature. (Example: If a parent cannot recall exact dates, something as simple as stating that disease occurred in the spring of 2000 is acceptable.)

24. May a chiropractor give a medical exemption for vaccination?

No. Only a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.) can provide a medical exemption. A nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant under a physician's supervision can also give a medical exemption.

25. What must a medical exemption contain?

A medical exemption is a physician's certification that a particular immunization is **detrimental** to the child's health. It must state in writing that the child has a medical contraindication to receiving a vaccine and must be resubmitted to the school each year. As true medical contraindications to immunization are vaccine-specific, medical exemptions must be written for each vaccine that is contraindicated.

26. What must a religious objection contain?

A religious objection must state that the objection to immunization is based on religious grounds. Each objected immunization must be specified. The objection must be in writing, signed by the child's parent, and delivered to the school. There is no requirement of proof. The written religious objection must be resubmitted to the school each year.

27. Is there a philosophical objection allowed in Indiana?

No. Indiana law only allows religious and medical exemptions.

28. If a child does not present an immunization record or is not up to date with his/her immunizations, may he/she enroll in school?

Yes. Indiana Code (IC 20-34-4-5) states that a child is **not permitted to attend** school beyond the first day without furnishing a written record, unless:

The school gives a waiver (for a period not to exceed 20 days); or

The local health department or a physician determines that the child's immunizations have been delayed due to extreme circumstances and that the required immunizations will not be completed by the first day of school. The parent must furnish a written statement and a time schedule approved by a physician or health department; or

A medical or religious exemption is on file.

For additional questions, please call the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program at (800) 701-0704.

Indiana State Department of Health
MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY*
2010-2011

Grade	Minimum Immunization Requirements
Pre-Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), pediatric diphtheria-tetanus vaccine (DT), or any combination of the three are required. • 3 doses of either oral polio (OPV) or inactivated polio (IPV) vaccine in any combination. • 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (3rd dose must be on or after 24 weeks of age). • 1 dose of measles (rubeola) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of rubella (German measles) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the first birthday and separated by 3 months or physician written documentation of history of chickenpox disease, including month and year of disease.
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), or pediatric diphtheria-tetanus vaccine (DT) (4 doses are acceptable if the 4th dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the 3rd dose). • 4 doses of any combination of IPV or OPV. The 4th dose must be administered on or after the 4th birthday, and at least 6 months after the previous dose. (3 doses of all OPV or all IPV are acceptable if the 3rd dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday, and at least 6 months after the 2nd dose). • 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (3rd dose must be given on or after 24 weeks of age and no earlier than 16 weeks after the 1st dose). • 2 doses of measles (rubeola) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of rubella (German measles) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the first birthday and separated by 3 months or physician written documentation of history of chickenpox disease, including month and year of disease.
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), or pediatric diphtheria-tetanus vaccine (DT) (4 doses are acceptable if the 4th dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the 3rd dose). • 4 doses of any combination of IPV or OPV by age 4-6 (3 doses of all OPV or all IPV are acceptable if the 3rd dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday). • 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (3rd dose must be on or after 24 weeks of age). • 2 doses of measles (rubeola) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of rubella (German measles) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the first birthday or physician written documentation of history of chickenpox disease, including month and year of disease.

Indiana State Department of Health
MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY*
2010-2011

Grade	Minimum Immunization Requirements
Grades 2-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), or pediatric diphtheria-tetanus vaccine (DT) (4 doses are acceptable if the 4th dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the 3rd dose). • 4 doses of any combination of IPV or OPV by age 4-6 (3 doses of all OPV or all IPV are acceptable if the 3rd dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday). • 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (3rd dose must be on or after 24 weeks of age). • 2 doses of measles (rubeola) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of rubella (German measles) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the first birthday <i>or</i> written history of disease. Parental history of chickenpox disease is acceptable proof of immunity. A signed written statement from the parent/guardian indicating month and year of disease is sufficient.
Grades 6-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), or pediatric diphtheria-tetanus vaccine (DT) (4 doses are acceptable if the 4th dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the 3rd dose). • 4 doses of any combination of IPV or OPV by age 4-6 (3 doses of all OPV or all IPV are acceptable if the 3rd dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday). • 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (3rd dose must be on or after 24 weeks of age). • 2 doses of measles (rubeola) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 1 doses of rubella (German measles) vaccine on or after the first birthday. • 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the first birthday separated by age-appropriate interval <i>or</i> written history of disease. Parental history of chickenpox disease is acceptable proof of immunity. A signed written statement from the parent/guardian indicating month and year of disease is sufficient. • 1 dose of tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) given on or after 10 years of age. • 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).

*For children who have delayed immunizations, please refer to the 2010 CDC “Catch-up Immunization Schedule” to determine adequately immunizing doses. All minimum intervals and ages for each vaccination as specified per 2010 CDC guidelines must be met for a dose to be valid. These guidelines can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm

**2010-2011 School Year
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
School Immunization Requirements
Quick Reference Guide[^]**

	3-5 Year Olds	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTaP/DTP/DT/Td*	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Polio**	3	4***	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Measles	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mumps	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Rubella	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hepatitis B~	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Varicella ∞	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tdap	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MCV4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

[^] **Shaded areas represent grades for which immunization reports are required to be submitted to the Indiana State Department of Health.** For children who have delayed immunizations, please refer to the 2010 CDC "Catch-up Immunization Schedule" to determine adequately immunizing doses. All minimum intervals and ages for each vaccination as specified per 2010 CDC guidelines must be met for a dose to be valid. A copy of these guidelines can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/fecs/schedules/default.htm.

* Four doses of DTaP/DTP/DT are acceptable if 4th dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

** Three doses of polio vaccine are acceptable if 3rd dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday and the doses are all IPV or all OPV.

*** The 4th dose of polio vaccine must be administered on or after child's fourth birthday. This applies only to kindergarten for 2010-2011.

~ Two dose alternative adolescent schedule (Recombivax HB given at age 11-15 years x 2 doses) is acceptable if properly documented.

∞ Physician documentation of disease history, including month and year, is proof of immunity for preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade-students. A signed statement from the parent/guardian indicating history of disease, including month and year is required for children in grades 2-12.

For a current list of requirements, please go to https://chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/chirp_docs.htm

To: School Nurses
From: Phyllis J. Lewis, MSN
Re: Immunizations
Date: June 28, 2010

Thank you for the work you already have done to inform parents and health care providers about the changes in immunization requirements for the 2010-2011 school year. Many of you already have reviewed available immunization records, including students participating in kindergarten round-up or pre-registration. You have notified parents/guardians of the immunizations their children receive, arranged for school site clinics and worked closely with your local health department.

Here are some further suggestions for implementing the immunization program for your school:

1. Meet with principals to provide timely and accurate information about the immunization requirements, develop and implement internal and external communication plans and review health and attendance policies for students who have not received their immunizations.
2. Communicate with parents, health care providers, and community members via emails, letters, school newsletters, school website, and school signage. Create talking points to guide school personnel in responding to media inquiries.
3. Coordinate with your local health department and physicians to offer immunization clinics in schools, hospitals, and community centers.
4. Communicate and brainstorm with other school nurses for additional suggestions.

For information on immunization, contact Dr. Joan Duwve at jduwve@isdh.in.gov. For information on Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program, contact Cameron Minich at cminich@isdh.in.gov. Contact Wayne Staggs at wstaggs@isdh.in.gov for information on communicable diseases in immunized students. For all other concerns and questions, contact me at 317-232-9142 or plewis@doe.in.gov.

****IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS****

If your child will be entering preschool, kindergarten or Grades 6-12, there are new immunization (vaccinations/shots) requirements for the upcoming school year.

1. What new immunizations are required?

Preschool or kindergarten (preschool students include those attending a special education program, childcare, or preschool program within the school):

- Two varicella (chickenpox) vaccinations (not needed if child has documentation of having had chicken pox)

Entering Grades 6 – 12:

- Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine. (Also called Tdap.)
- Meningococcal conjugate vaccine. (Also called MCV4 – Menactra.)
- Two varicella (chickenpox) vaccinations (not needed if child has documentation of having had chicken pox).

These shots are in addition to those previously required.

2. What happens if my child does not have the required shots by the time school starts?

If your child is not exempted from getting the shots, your child may attend school for 20 days to allow you time to get the necessary shots. The law says the school cannot allow your child to attend school for more than 20 days without the shots, unless the child is exempted for religious or medical reasons—or if a doctor has provided documentation that your child is scheduled to be vaccinated. (See below for more information on exemptions.)

3. What should I do if my child has some of the shots, but not all of them?

If your child is scheduled to obtain the shots, a doctor can provide a statement with a schedule showing when the child will get the remaining shots. You need to provide the doctor's statement to the school. Your child may continue to attend school while getting the shots.

4. What should I do if I have religious objections to my child receiving the shots?

You must provide the school a signed, written statement expressing that you object to the required vaccinations based on religious grounds. If you provide this statement to the school, your child may continue to attend school and will be excused from obtaining the required shots.

5. What if the doctor says my child should not have the shot(s)?

If your child's doctor says one or more of the required vaccinations could be harmful to your child, the doctor needs to provide a signed, written statement that you must take to your child's school. Your child may continue to attend school and will be excused from obtaining the required shots.

6. What if I can't afford the shots or I don't have a doctor?

Contact your local health department and your school nurse for information on where your child can get the required shot(s) at little or no cost.

7. Where can I get more information?

Your school nurse has information on these requirements. Information is also available from the Indiana State Department of Health (1-800-701-0704 or chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/chirp_docs.htm).