

Section One – General Information

Immunizations

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

Children in ALL grades (K-12) need the following vaccines:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis* (one dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)**
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella***
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

**Usually given as DTP or DTaP or if medically advisable, DT or Td*

***A fourth dose is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose.*

****Usually given as MMR*

Children ENTERING 7th GRADE need the following additional vaccines:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) by the first day of 7th grade.
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) by the first day of 7th grade.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion.

- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within the first five days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the child must also provide a medical plan within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- These requirements allow for the following exemptions: medical reason, religious belief, or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Even if your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.
- Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 Pa.CODE CH.23 (School Immunization). Call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for more information.