



HEMPFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Committed to Educational Excellence

March 7, 2017

Dear Parents:

Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Health approved changes to the current mandated immunizations required for school-aged students in order to be considered for enrollment in public schools. These changes will go into effect in August, 2017, and are intended to ensure that all children attending school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. Please be advised of the following **NEW** Pennsylvania School Immunization Requirements, effective August, 2017:

Children in **ALL** grades (K-12) need the following **immunizations for attendance:**

- **4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis***
(1 dose on or after 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, and rubella ****
- **3 doses of hepatitis B**
- **2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity**

Seventh through 12th grade ADDITIONAL immunization requirements for attendance:

- **2 doses meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)**
-first dose is given 11-15 years of age; a second dose is required at age 16 or entry into 12th grade.
-If the dose was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required
- **1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)**

*Usually given as DTaP or DTP or DT or Td

** Usually given as MMR

Exemptions to the school laws for immunizations are:

- **medical reasons;**
- **religious beliefs; and**
- **philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction.**

We wanted all parents to have this information as soon as possible for planning purposes. For more information on required school-aged vaccines, please visit dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov or talk to your child's pediatrician.

Sincerely,

Jeffery A. Coover, B.S., M.Ed.
Director of Student Services

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SCHOOL VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS

FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES CHILDREN NEED THE FOLLOWING:



- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis* (1 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*



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 (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child must provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- The medical plan must be followed or risk exclusion.

FOR ATTENDANCE IN 7TH GRADE:

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

ON THE FIRST DAY OF 7TH GRADE, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

FOR ATTENDANCE IN 12TH GRADE:

- 1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the twelfth grade dose.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF 12TH GRADE, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

The vaccines required for entrance, 7th grade and 12th grade continue to be required in each succeeding school year.

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). Contact your healthcare provider or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for more information.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH