

RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO ACT 244 OF 1967, ACT 633 OF 1973, AND ACT 871 OF 1997

Requirements:

No infant or child shall be admitted to a public or private school or childcare facility of this State, irrespective of grade or transfer, who has not been age-appropriately immunized against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Red (Rubeola) Measles, Rubella (German Measles), and other diseases as designated by the State Board of Health, except as otherwise provided by law, as evidenced by a certificate of a licensed physician or a public health department acknowledging the immunization.

Exemptions

1. Medical

- A. Only a letter issued by the MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE/IMMUNIZATION, stating the vaccine or vaccines for which a child is exempt are to be accepted as a valid medical exemption by the school. Statements from private physicians are not to be accepted by the school without this letter.
- B. A child who has had a vaccine-preventable disease, as documented by an appropriate diagnostic or blood serology test, should not be required to have the vaccine for that disease. A child who is uncertain of their disease history or has lost his/her immunization records should be immunized for those diseases, if serology test results are unavailable.

2. Religious

The Arkansas Department of Health's standard form for religious exemptions must be submitted to the Division of CD/Immunization. This form is available from the Arkansas Department of Health upon request. A notarized statement is required from a Pastor or church official that the parents or guardians are members or adherents of a recognized church or religious denomination whose tenets are opposed to immunization.

Documentation

The following documentation of student immunizations is required:

All schools may use the Arkansas Immunization/Health Record as a standard form for recording immunization information. Public and private schools may order the form

from the Arkansas Department of Health. Immunization records may be stored on a computer database, such as the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN), as long as a copy of the original source document is contained in the student's permanent file. It shall be the responsibility of the school to maintain a list of students not appropriately immunized a list of transfer students, and a list of students with medical or religious exemptions.

The only proof of immunizations to be accepted by the school authority shall be a certificate by a licensed physician, health department, or the military service, acknowledging the same, stating the vaccine type, and dates of vaccine administration must be provided and entered on the school record. Terms such as "up-to-date", "complete", "adequate", etc. are not to be used.

The Department of Health is charged with the responsibility of immunizing all children who need vaccine. In order to identify areas where additional emphasis is needed and to measure levels, the Arkansas Department of Health will conduct annual surveys and on-site immunization record audits of selected grades in all schools. The schools' cooperation in completing these surveys and audits is required.

Exclusion from School

The responsibility for the enforcement of the Immunization Law rests equally with each school district of this state and the parent or guardian of the student and each of them shall be separately and individually liable for permitting any violation of this law.

Students will not be allowed to attend school unless they can document appropriate immunizations or are in the process of completing the minimum requirements. "In process" means they have received at least one dose of the required immunizations and are waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional doses. When a student is admitted who is in the process of completing the required minimum immunizations, it is the responsibility of the school to assure the student completes the required doses on schedule. A written statement from a public health nurse (IMM-25) or private physician stating that the child is in process and containing a date when he/she must return for the next immunization should be in the student's file. If a student does not produce documentation of additional immunizations per the schedule, they must be excluded from school until documentation is provided (Attorney General Opinion NO. 78-47, April 3, 1978). When students are in violation of the compulsory school attendance law, the local enforcing authority shall be notified. The immunization series does not need to be restarted as each dose of vaccine counts toward the minimum requirement.

Students who are exempt or deficient (except those who have had the disease) will be excluded from school if the Health Department determines that a sufficient outbreak of the related disease exists in the local community.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES

Prepared by the Arkansas Departments of Health and Education

“Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Communicable Disease Control”, Arkansas State Board of Health as authorized by Act 96 of 1913 (Arkansas Statutes, 1947, Section 82-110). Section XII: GENERAL IMMUNIZATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY ACTS 224 OF 1967, 633 OF 1973, AND 871 OF 1997.

Immunization Requirements for School Entry

The requirements* for entry into school, irrespective of grade, are at least three doses of Acellular Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP), Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP), Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT pediatric), or Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td Adult), at least three doses of polio vaccine; two doses of Rubeola (measles) vaccine, one dose of Rubella (German measles) vaccine and one dose of Mumps vaccine. Additionally, three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine and one dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are required before entering Kindergarten. Three doses of Hepatitis B are required for Transfer students (students not in your school district last school year) and students entering the seventh grade.

School officials are required to evaluate the immunization status of all children in their facilities. The following chart is used to determine if the child meets the immunization requirements to enter school.

| Vaccine | Minimum Number Of Doses Required | Additional Requirements |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Polio OPV – Oral IPV – Inactivated | 3 | The last dose of polio vaccine must have been administered on or after the child’s 4 th birthday. These 3 doses are required for all students, Kindergarten through 12 th grade and Transfer. |

* See page 5 for explanation.

| Vaccine | Minimum Number Of Doses Required | Additional Requirements |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| DTaP- Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Acellular Pertussis DTP-Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Pertussis DT-Pediatric Td-Adult | 3 | The last dose of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td must have been administered on or after the child's 4 th birthday. These 3 doses are required for all students, Kindergarten through 12 th grade and Transfer. |
| Measles (M, M/R, M/M/R) | 2 | <p>The first dose must have been administered on or after the child's 1st birthday. One dose required of all students, Kindergarten through 12th grade and Transfer.</p> <p>The second dose must have been administered at least 28 days after the first dose. The second dose is required of all students Kindergarten through 12th grade and Transfer.</p> |
| Rubella (R, M/R, M/M/R) | 1 | This dose must have been administered on or after the child's 1 st birthday. This dose is required of all students Kindergarten through 12 th grade and Transfer. |

| Vaccine | Minimum Number Of Doses Required | Additional Requirements |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Mumps (M, M/M/R) | 1 | The dose must have been administered on or after the child's 1 st birthday. This dose is required of all students, Kindergarten through 12 th grade and Transfer. |
| Hepatitis B | 3 | These 3 doses are required before completing school year for all Kindergarten, 7 th grade and Transfer students. ** 7 th graders and Transfer students 11-15 years of age may use an alternative two dose schedule. |
| Varicella (chickenpox) | 1 | The dose must have been administered on or after the child's 1 st birthday. One dose is required for all Kindergarten students. A parent/guardian or physician history of disease may be accepted in lieu of vaccine. |

*Doses of vaccine required for school entry may be less than the number of doses required for complete medical immunization. The Arkansas Department of Health recommends that a child receive by school age, 5 doses of DTaP, 4 doses of Oral or Inactivated Polio, 3 or 4 doses of Hib, 3 doses of Hepatitis B, 2 doses of Measles/Mumps/Rubella, and 1 dose of Varicella vaccine. This is based on an immunization schedule that ideally should begin within a few hours of birth.

** An alternative two dose hepatitis B schedule for 11-15 year old children may be substituted for the three dose schedule. Only a FDA-approved alternative regimen vaccine for the two dose series may be used to meet this requirement. If you are unsure if a particular child's two-dose schedule is acceptable, please contact the Division of CD/Immunization for assistance at 501-661-2169.

If the child does not meet the immunization requirements for entering school, the school is requested to refer the child to a medical authority (private doctor or health department) for immunization or consultation for when the immunization is due.

NOTE: Public health personnel are not to use the above chart to determine whether a child is adequately immunized medically. Use the Immunization Schedule

Provisional Admittance

Students who transfer from another School District may be conditionally admitted. A maximum of 30 calendar days shall be given for the student to produce documentation of immunizations or be excluded. Schools shall make a concerted effort to promptly transfer health records to other schools when a student transfers.

Exemptions

Parents may request exemptions from immunizations for medical or religious reasons. Medical exemptions are issued for a period of time designated by the Medical Director of the Division of Communicable Disease/Immunization and usually do not exempt a child from all of the immunization requirements. Religious exemptions are issued for one year only and must be renewed at the beginning of each school year. These requests should be forwarded to the Director, Division of CD/Immunization, Arkansas Department of Health, 4815 W. Markham, Slot 48, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72205. Letters of exemption or denial will be issued to the school.

Only an appropriate diagnostic or blood serology test result from a certified laboratory, documenting that a child has had a vaccine-preventable disease, will be accepted in lieu of vaccine for that disease. Test results must be submitted to the Division of CD/Immunization's Medical Director for approval. A copy of these results must be contained in the child's' permanent record. EXCEPTION: A history of disease for Varicella (chickenpox) from a student's parent/guardian or physician may be accepted in lieu of vaccine.

Records

Schools may use the Arkansas Immunization/Health Record or a computerized database (See Documentation) for keeping immunization information. Public and private schools may order them from the Division of CD/Immunization, Arkansas Department of Health, 4815 West Markham, Slot 48, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205.

Dates of vaccine administration must be provided and entered on the school record. Check marks or terms such as "up-to-date", "complete", "adequate", etc., are not to be accepted.

Dates of vaccine administration from other states and statements received from private physicians may be accepted as proof of immunization if they meet all of the following criteria:

1. The child's date of birth and name are recorded
2. The certificate or statement specifies the number of doses of each vaccine the child has received. The number specified, of course, must meet the minimum Arkansas requirements for each vaccine.
3. At least one date for each vaccine entity is recorded, so that school officials can determine whether the last dose of polio, DTaP, DTP, Td (adult) and/or DT (pediatric) was administered on/after the fourth birthday and whether the measles, rubella, and mumps vaccines were administered on/after the first birthday.
4. The certificate or statement includes the physician or clinic name, authorized medical signature, and date of issuance.

The preference is for documentation to consist of full dates for each immunization given, however, with incomplete records, this guide will permit school officials to determine that a student is in compliance with the Arkansas School Immunization Law.