

STUDENTS

Immunization Requirements

- I. In accordance with Virginia Code relative to enrollment of certain children in public schools:
- A. Children not properly immunized in accordance with the Virginia Department of Health's School and Day Care Minimum Immunization Requirements (Attachment I) will not be permitted to enroll. Documentary proof of immunizations or documentation of a religious exemption or medical exemption must be presented at the time of admission to the admitting official of the school/School Age Child Care (SACC). Students experiencing homelessness as defined in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) Regulation 718-1, "Students Experiencing Homelessness," or students in foster care as defined in Regulation 714-1, "Registration of Students in Foster Care" are exempt.

The student shall be immunized and receive certification by a licensed physician, registered nurse, or an employee of a local health department.

The school shall provide parents with information about the location of the health district and its immunization schedule.

- B. Students who have incomplete immunizations shall be admitted conditionally if:
1. The student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and has provided the school with appropriate documentation.
 2. The student provides documentation of a schedule for completion of the required doses.

Students who have been admitted conditionally shall have their records reviewed at the end of 90 days. Any student admitted conditionally and who fails to comply with his/her schedule for completion of the required immunizations shall be excluded from school/SACC until the immunizations are resumed. Any school days missed due to immunization non-compliance shall be unexcused absences.

- C. If a student is a homeless child or youth as defined in Regulation 718-1, "Students Experiencing Homelessness," and has no documentary proof of immunizations, then that child shall be immediately referred to the school nurse who shall assist in obtaining the necessary immunizations by the county health district, other

clinic, or physician's office. The school staff shall allow the child to enroll in school pending resolution of all health requirements as stated in Regulation 718-1, "Students Experiencing Homelessness."

- D. If a student is a foster child as defined in Regulation 714-1, "Registration of Students in Foster Care," and has no documentary proof of immunizations, shall be enrolled for up to 30 calendar days before required to provide proof of immunization if the person enrolling the student states in writing at the time of enrollment that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the student is in good health and free from communicable or contagious disease.

II. Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

Religious and Medical Exemptions - No certification of immunization shall be required of any student for admission to school if:

- A. The student or the parent/guardian submits a Certification of Religious Exemption (Form CRE 1), Attachment II, to the admitting official of the school to which the student is seeking admission. Form CRE 1 is an affidavit stating that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student's religious tenets or practices.
- B. The school has written certification from a physician or a local health department or documentation on the State School Health Entrance Form that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health. Such certification of medical exemption shall specify the nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicates immunization. For a currently enrolled student, any document attesting to the fact that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health shall be acceptable in lieu of the State School Health Entrance Form.
- C. However, in either of these criteria one or two above, in the event of an epidemic these children shall be excluded from school. Students excluded from school under criteria one or two above shall be provided homework from their classes and shall be carried on the attendance rolls as excused absences for the duration of their exclusion from school.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

Virginia Department of Health
SCHOOL AND DAY CARE
MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Documentary proof shall be provided of adequate age appropriate immunization with the prescribed number of doses of vaccine indicated below for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care center, nursery school, family day care home or developmental center. Vaccines must be administered in accordance with the harmonized schedule of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Family Physicians and must be administered within spacing and age requirements (available at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Immunization/acip.htm>).

Children vaccinated in accordance with either the current harmonized schedule or the harmonized catch-up schedules (including meeting all minimum age and interval requirements) are considered to be appropriately immunized for school attendance. (See “Supplemental Guidance for School-required Vaccines” for additional information.)

Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or Tdap). A minimum of 4 doses. A child must have at least one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the fourth birthday. DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically exempt from the pertussis containing vaccine (DTaP or DTP). Adult Td is required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. Effective July 1, 2014, a **booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering the 6th grade.**

Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine. This vaccine is required ONLY for children up to 60 months of age. A primary series consists of either 2 or 3 doses (depending on the manufacturer). However, the child's current age and not the number of prior doses received govern the number of doses required. Unvaccinated children between the ages of 15 and 60 months are only required to have one dose of vaccine.

Hepatitis B Vaccine. A complete series of 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine is required for all children. However, the FDA has approved a 2-dose schedule **ONLY** for adolescents 11-15 years of age AND **ONLY when the Merck Brand (RECOMBIVAX HB) Adult Formulation Hepatitis B Vaccine** is used. If the 2-dose schedule is used for adolescents 11-15 years of age it must be clearly documented on the school form.

Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV). Effective October 1, 2008, a complete series of 3 doses of HPV vaccine is required for females. The first dose shall be administered before the child enters the 6th grade. After reviewing educational materials approved by the Board of Health, the parent or guardian, at the parent's or guardian's sole discretion, may elect for the child not to receive the HPV vaccine.

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine. A minimum of 2 measles, 2 mumps, and 1 rubella. (Most children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the combination vaccine MMR). First dose must be administered at age 12 months or older. Second dose of vaccine must be administered prior to entering kindergarten but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2.

Pneumococcal (PCV) Vaccine. This vaccine is required ONLY for children less than 60 months of age. One to four doses, dependent on age at first dose, of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine are required.

Polio Vaccine. A minimum of 4 doses of polio vaccine. One dose must be administered on or after the fourth birthday. **See supplemental guidance document for additional information.**

Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine. All children born on and after January 1, 1997, shall be required to have one dose of chickenpox vaccine administered at age 12 months or older. Effective March 3, 2010, a second dose must be administered prior to entering kindergarten but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2.

For further information, please call the Division of Immunization at 1.800.568.1929 (in state only) or 804.864.8055.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

Name _____ **Birth Date** _____

Student I.D. Number _____

The administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the above named student's/my religious tenets or practices. I understand, that in the occurrence of an outbreak, potential epidemic or epidemic of a vaccine-preventable disease in my/my child's school, the State Health Commissioner may order my/my child's exclusion from school, for my/my child's own protection, until the danger has passed.

Signature of parent/guardian/student **Date**

I hereby affirm that this affidavit was signed in my presence on

this _____ **day of** _____

Notary Public Seal