

## **HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE TO THE IMMUNIZATION LAW**

The State of Maryland has established immunization requirements for all students entering or enrolled in Maryland schools. The law states that each student must have at least one dose of the diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles) vaccines. PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, THRU 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS ENTERING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE BOTH VARICELLA VACCINE (OR PROOF OF IMMUNITY BY MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS) AND HEPATITIS B VACCINE. In addition, the student must be in the process of achieving complete immunization status.

Requirements to achieve complete immunization status include the following:

- Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV7, Prevnar) for students enrolled in preschool programs.
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough), (DTAP) – 4 doses combined vaccine (3 doses of diphtheria and tetanus for children over 7 years of age).
- Polio vaccine - 3 doses for a student less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- MMR - 2 doses of measles vaccine received on or after student's first birthday, or proof of immunity by blood test for students entering K-12<sup>th</sup> grade (1 dose for all others).
- 1 dose of rubella vaccine on or after the student's first birthday, or proof of immunity by a blood test for students entering K-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 1 dose of mumps vaccine on or after the student's first birthday or proof of immunity through a blood test for students entering K-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Varicella: 1 dose required for students under 13 years of age administered on or after student's first birthday; or 2 doses required for previously unvaccinated students 13 years of age and older; or documentation of history of Varicella (chicken pox) from a health care provider for students entering PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, THRU 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. History of chicken pox documented by a health care provider including month and year of disease or a positive blood test will be accepted as proof in lieu of vaccination.
- Hepatitis B vaccine - 3 doses for students entering PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, THRU 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. Positive blood test will be accepted in lieu of vaccination.
- (Upon record review a vaccine dose given less than or equal to 4 days before the minimum interval or age may be counted as valid.)

Preschool students less than 60 months of age must have received Haemophilus influenza, type b vaccine (HIB) in order to be entered or enrolled in preschool services. The student must have 1 dose of HIB on or after the first birthday.

Official documentation is recorded on the Maryland Immunization Certificate, DHMH 896. This form is available from the schools. If you have documentation from another source, please consult with the school nurse.

On the bottom of the Certificate, DHMH 896, you will note provisions for medical contraindications, religious objections, and lost or destroyed records. If any of these conditions apply, please have that portion completed by the appropriate person. The back of the form has additional details.

**DOCUMENTATION OF IMMUNIZATION MUST BE PROVIDED BEFORE A STUDENT CAN ENTER SCHOOL. IT IS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE THE SCHOOL WITH PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STUDENT'S SCHOOL NURSE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**

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