



PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE TO THE IMMUNIZATION LAW

The State of Maryland has established immunization requirements for all students entering or enrolled in Maryland schools. Requirements to achieve complete immunization status for school year 2022-2023 school year include the following:

- **Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough), (DTaP, DTP, Tdap, DT, Td):** Four (4) doses of DTaP, DTP vaccine are required for children less than 7 years old. Three (3) doses of tetanus and diphtheria containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, Tdap, DT or Td) are required for children 7 years of age or older. One dose of Tdap vaccine received prior to entering 7th grade is acceptable and should be counted as a dose that fulfills the Tdap requirement. If DT is given in place of DTP or DTaP, a physician-documented medical contraindication is required.
- **Polio (IPV):** 3 doses of polio vaccine for all students less than eighteen (18) years of age or proof of immunity by positive blood test.
- **Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR):** 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine received on or after student's first birthday, or proof of immunity by positive blood test for students entering K-12th grade. Preschool students under 60 months require one dose of measles, mumps and rubella. Preschool students over 60 months require 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.
- **Varicella (chicken pox):** 2 doses of varicella vaccine are required for students entering Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and for previously unvaccinated students 13 years of age or older. Medical diagnosis of varicella disease is acceptable in lieu of vaccination. Medical diagnosis is documented history of disease provided by a health care provider. Documentation must include month and year. Proof of immunity for varicella by positive blood test is acceptable in lieu of vaccine history.
- **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine for students or a positive blood test for students entering PK-12th grade. Proof of immunity for Hepatitis B by positive blood test is acceptable in lieu of vaccine history.
- **Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis booster (Tdap): 1 dose for all students entering grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12th.**
- **Meningococcal (MCV4, MPSV4): 1 dose required for all students entering grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12th.**
- Students enrolled in preschool programs must also:
 - Have received one dose of **Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV7, PCV 13, Prevnar®)** if they are under 60 months of age.
 - Have received **Haemophilus influenzae, type b vaccine (HIB)** if they are under 60 months of age. At least 1 dose of HIB must be administered on or after the first birthday.

(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.)

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.

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.

Prepared by:
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