

The Department of Health has changed school immunization regulations effective August 2017. The regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in the Commonwealth are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

**FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES, children need the following:**

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis\* (1 dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4<sup>th</sup> dose on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella\*\*
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox) or evidence of immunity
  - \* Usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td
  - \*\* Usually given as MMR

**FOR ATTENDANCE IN 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE, children need the following:**

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) if 5 years have elapsed since last tetanus immunization
- 2 doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
  - First dose is given 11-15 years of age; a second dose is required at age 16 or entry into 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - If the dose was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required.

**\*\*\*EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL\*\*\***

- *Your child will be excluded within the first 5 days of school, if immunizations are missing or given at incorrect intervals. For those students unable to get all immunizations completed due to spacing of vaccines by day #5 of school, the parent or guardian will need to provide the school nurse with a medical certificate signed by the child's healthcare provider. If the student is non-compliant with the medical certificate, then exclusion will occur.*
- If your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be removed from school during an outbreak.

The Pennsylvania School Health Law also requires all children to have a medical and dental exam as follows:

**MEDICAL EXAM:** Within one year prior to Kindergarten or 1st grade (if your child is entering school for the first time as a 1st grader). This exam must be done by the first day of school.

**DENTAL EXAM:** Within one year prior to Kindergarten or 1st grade (if your child is entering school for the first time as a 1st grader). This exam must be done by the first day of school.

You are encouraged to have the examinations conducted by your family doctor and/or dentist who are familiar with your child's health history and are in the best position to recommend immediate steps for any necessary remedial care.

If your child has any medical condition, e.g., epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, or is highly allergic or sensitive to certain foods, insect bites or medications, please include that information on the physical and health history forms. Notify the school if a condition and/or allergy is diagnosed at any time during the school year.

**Please provide your school nurse with an updated immunization record and if you have any questions please contact her.**

**Contact your healthcare provider or call 877 PA HEALTH for more information.**