

**Northside Independent School District  
Health Services Department**

**State Immunization Requirements 2006**

Requirements are as follows:

- DPT/DtaP/Td/DT** Five doses of any combination DTaP/DTP unless 4th dose was given on or after 4th birthday. Students who are 7 and older only three doses required. DtaP vaccine will satisfy all DPT immunization requirements for all ages. Td is boosted every 10 years. Td vaccine administered to individuals 7 years of age and older.
- Polio (OPV)** Four doses unless the 3rd dose was on or after 4th birthday. Not required for students 18 years of age or older.
- Measles** Two doses of a measles-containing vaccine with the first dose on or after the first birthday; second dose by age 5 or entry into kindergarten. **First dose MUST be on or after the first birthday.**
- Rubella** One dose of vaccine required under the age of 18.
- Mumps** One dose required for all students through 18 years of age.
- Physician confirmation of prior measles, rubella, mumps illness will no longer be acceptable in lieu of vaccination. Only serological confirmation of the above illness will be acceptable.**
- Hib** One dose if administered after 15 months of age. A series of 4 if given in infancy. Required through age 4.
- Hep A** Effective **August 1, 2004** students in **Pre-Kinder thru 3rd grade** must show proof of two doses of vaccine prior to entering school. Second dose must be 6 months after the first dose. Series is started **after** the age one.
- Hep B** Effective **August 1, 2004**, students in grades **Kinder thru 12th** must have 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine. Hepatitis B vaccine or show proof of serologic confirmation of immunity to Hepatitis B or serological evidence of infection.
- Hep B** If student receives the adolescent dose of the vaccine 2 doses are (adolescent) required six months apart.
- Varicella** Effective August 1, 2004, **Requirements** are:  
(chicken pox) One dose on or after the first birthday for students in grades **Kinder thru 12th**  
If vaccine is administered after 13th birthday student is required to have two doses.

- Receipt of the dose up to (and including) 4 days before the birthday will satisfy the school entry immunization requirement.
- Serological confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, or Varicella or serologic evidence of infection is acceptable in lieu of vaccine.
- Two doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax® are acceptable.) Dosage and type of vaccine **must** be clearly documented. (Two 10mcg/1.0 ml of Recombivax®)
- Serologic proof of immunity or documentation of previous illness may substitute for vaccination. Previous illness may be documented with a written statement from a physician, school nurse, or the child's parent or guardian containing words such as: "This is to verify that (name of student) had Varicella disease (chicken pox) on or about (date) and does not need Varicella vaccine."
- Hepatitis A vaccine is required for students attending a school located in a high incidence geographic area designated by the Texas Department of Health. Thirty-nine counties affected by Hepatitis A requirement includes Bexar County.

### **Exemptions**

The law allows (a) physicians to write a statement stating that the vaccine(s) required would be medically harmful or injurious to the health and well-being of the child, and (b) parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The law does not allow parents/guardians to elect an exemption simply because of inconvenience (a record is lost or incomplete and it is too much trouble to go to a physician or clinic to correct the problem).

For children needing medical exemptions, a written statement by the physician should be submitted to the school.

Instructions for the affidavit to be signed by parents/guardians choosing the exemption for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief can be found at [www.ImmunizeTexas.com](http://www.ImmunizeTexas.com) or [http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school\\_exclusion.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school_exclusion.shtm)

Schools should maintain an up-to-date list of students with exemptions, so they can be excluded from attending school if an outbreak occurs.

### **Provisional**

All immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires that students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally, if the student has an immunization record that indicates that student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school. A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in

compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

### **Documentation**

Since many types of personal immunization records are in use, any document will be acceptable provided a physician or public health personnel have validated it. The month, day, and year that the vaccination was received must be recorded on all school immunization records created or updated after September 1, 1991.

### **Verification Needed:**

1. The students in grades K-12th must show proof that Varicella vaccine was received on or after the 1st birthday.
2. Parent/Guardian or physician history validation of Varicella illness (chicken pox) or serological confirmation of Varicella immunity. If child had the Varicella illness, please request form from the school nurse.

### **Immunization Abbreviations**

If a “B” or “Booster or “Series Completed” appears on a DPT or TD or Polio record, it may be assumed that the required doses of vaccine were received.

DPT/DTaP	Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Tetanus
TD/Td	Tetanus, Diphtheria
IPV	Injectable polio vaccine
OPV	Sabin, Salk, Oral Polio (live)
MR	Measles-Rubella
MMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
VMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella
BIAVAX	Mumps, Rubella
Mono Vac	Tuberculin Tine (test not required by law)
O.T.	Tuberculin Tine (test not required by law)
PPD	Tuberculin Tine (test not required by law)
TT	Tetanus Toxoid (does <b>NOT</b> take place of TD or DPT)
ACP	Anti-Cellular Pertussis (whooping cough)
VAR	Varicella (chicken pox)
HIB	Haemophilus Influenzae
HAP	Hepatitis A
HEP	Pediatric Hepatitis B Vaccine
RVV	Rotavirus Vaccine
PCV	Prevnar (Pneumococcal 2-4-6 months)

**Source:** The requirements are based on the Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule – United States, 2004, approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Children on an ideal or optimum schedule as recommended will have received 5 doses of DTP/DTaP vaccine, 4 doses of polio vaccine, 3 or more doses of Hib vaccine, 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 2 doses of MMR vaccine, 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine, and 1 dose of Varicella vaccine by the time they enter kindergarten.

## **Frequently Asked Questions Vaccine Exemption for Reasons of Conscience**

***Q. How do I obtain a vaccine exemption for reasons of conscience for my child?***

A. Parents or guardians need to request a vaccine exemption affidavit form in writing. Each child's name and date of birth must be included in the request. The requests must be submitted through the U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier or fax to:

**Texas Department of Health  
Bureau of Immunization and Pharmacy Support  
1100 W. 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756  
Fax: (512) 458-7544**

***Q. What if I have already submitted a request for a vaccine exemption affidavit form by e-mail?***

A. Any request submitted by e-mail will need to be resubmitted in writing and sent through the U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier or fax to the above address.

***Q. How many vaccine exemption affidavit forms can a parent or guardian request at one time?***

A. Parents or guardians can request up to five vaccine exemption affidavit forms per child.

***Q. What information will be listed on the vaccine exemption affidavit form I receive?***

A. Information on the form will include the child's name; date of birth; a list of vaccines for which exemptions may be requested; a statement for the requesting parent or guardian to indicate their relationship to the child; and an acknowledgement that the parent or guardian has read attached information entitled *The Benefits and Risks of Vaccinations*. Parents or guardians will then have to sign the form in front of a notary public.

***Q. What will happen to the information collected on each child?***

A. Requests submitted to TDH will be returned to parents or guardians along with the vaccine exemption affidavit forms. TDH will track and report on the number of affidavit requests and zip code. No other information will be maintained.

***Q. What should parents or guardians do with the vaccine exemption affidavit form?***

A. After the original vaccine exemption affidavit form is signed and notarized, it must be submitted to the child's school.

***Q. For how long is each child's individual exemption affidavit valid?***

A. Each individual vaccine exemption affidavit is good for two years from the date notarized.

***Q. What happens if the parent or school loses the original vaccine exemption affidavit?***

A. Photocopies of the vaccine exemption affidavit form are not valid. If parents or schools lose the exemption affidavit, the parent or guardian needs to request another vaccine exemption affidavit in writing following the same procedures used to obtain the first form.

***Q. What if my child changes schools?***

A. The vaccine exemption affidavit is part of the child's school records and should be sent to the new school with other school records.

***Q. Does a child have a 90-day provisional enrollment in school while awaiting the vaccine exemption form?***

A. No. Admission to a school is not allowed until records are produced showing (1) that the child has been immunized in accordance with the rules; (2) the child has an exemption from immunization requirements on file with the school in accordance with the rules; or (3) that the child is entitled to provisional enrollment.

***Q. What is required for school enrollment if I want my child exempt from some vaccines but not all of them?***

A. Two different immunization documents will be needed: 1) an official notarized TDH vaccine exemption affidavit for those vaccines the parent or guardian has chosen for reasons of conscience to have their child exempt from; and 2) a valid immunization record indicating the month, date and year each vaccine for which the child is not exempt was administered, with appropriate validation by a physician or public health clinic.

***Q. If a child currently has a religious exemption for vaccinations on file with the school, do they need to obtain a new vaccine exemption for reasons of conscience affidavit?***

A. No. Students who are currently exempt from vaccination for religious beliefs and already have an affidavit on file at the school they attend do not need a new vaccine exemption affidavit form. The religious exemption on file remains valid.

***Q. What if there is a vaccine-preventable disease—such as measles—outbreak at a school?***

A. Each parent or guardian who signs a vaccine exemption affidavit form also is acknowledging they understand that their child may be excluded from school attendance in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the Texas Commissioner of Health.

***Q. Does this new vaccine exemption option mean that my vaccinated child may be attending school with other children who are not fully vaccinated?***

A. Yes.

***Q. Can an expectant parent request a vaccination exemption affidavit form for an unborn child?***

A. No. Because the child's name and date of birth is required when the vaccine exemption affidavit form is requested, expectant parents must wait until after the child is born to request the vaccine exemption affidavit form.

***Q. Are there other reasons a child may be exempted from vaccination requirements?***

A. A child may be exempt from one or more vaccinations for medical reasons. The parent or guardian must provide the school with a certificate signed by a physician, registered and licensed to practice medicine in Texas, which states that, in the physician's opinion, the immunization required would be injurious to the child's health and well-being or to any of the child's family or household members. Unless a lifelong condition is specified, that certificate is valid for one year from the date signed by the physician and must be renewed every year for the exclusion to remain in effect.

## Guidelines for Requesting an Exemption for Reasons of Conscience

- Written requests must be submitted through the U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, fax, or by hand-delivery to:  
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DSHS Immunization Branch  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756  
(Fax)512.458.7544
- Hand-delivered requests may be submitted to the DSHS, Immunization Branch, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. ALL affidavit forms will be mailed to you via U.S. Postal Service. No requests will be filled at the time of hand-delivery.
- Affidavit form requests will be processed and mailed within one week from the receipt of the request. If additional information is needed in order to process the affidavit, you will be notified;
- The letter must include the following information:
  - Full name of each child for whom a form is requested (first, middle, and last);
  - Date of birth of each child for whom a form is requested;
  - Parent or legal guardian's signature and complete return mailing address, including zip code; and
  - Number of forms needed for each child (not to exceed five forms per child)
- Electronic mail or telephone requests cannot be processed.
- The official Texas Department of State Health Services affidavit form must be notarized and submitted to school officials. The form must be submitted within 90 days from the date it is notarized.
- The school will accept only official affidavit forms developed and issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Immunization Branch. **No other forms or reproductions will be allowed.**