New Immunization Laws for Schools, Child Care, and Early Childhood Programs Begin September 2014

On Sept. 1, 2014, changes to Minnesota’s Immunization Law will take effect. The changes were made to be more closely aligned with the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. Medical and conscientious exemptions are still allowed under the law.

**New Vaccine Requirements**
The new vaccines that will require documentation of immunization or a legal exemption include:

- **Hepatitis B** – For all children over 2 months old enrolled or enrolling in child care or an early childhood program.
- **Hepatitis A** - For all children over 12 months old enrolled or enrolling in child care or an early childhood program.
- **Tdap** - For all students entering seventh grade. Students in eighth through 12th grade must show documentation if the school requests it. *This replaces the Td immunization requirement.*
- **Meningitis (meningococcal)** - For all students entering seventh grade. Students entering eighth through 12th grade must show documentation if the school requests it.

**Changes to Previous Vaccine Requirements**

- **Varicella** –Must have received varicella vaccine by 15 months of age to enroll in child care or early childhood programs. This applies to children turning 15 months old on Sept. 1, 2014 or after.

  Additionally, the law clarifies that if a child had varicella disease:
  - Before 2010, the parent or guardian needs to provide the month/year of the disease and their signature. A provider’s signature is not required.
  - After 2010, a provider’s signature is required.

- **Polio and DTaP**—Starting Sept. 1, 2014, children enrolled or enrolling in child care, early childhood programs, and kindergarten through 12th grade and are completing their polio or DTaP series must have had their final:
  - Polio dose (usually fourth dose) on or after their fourth birthday
  - DTaP dose (usually fifth dose) vaccine on or after their fourth birthday.

Remember, this change takes effect on September 1, 2014, so incoming kindergartners for the 2014-2015 school year who have completed their polio and DTaP series are exempt. This change will have a bigger impact on incoming kindergartners for the 2015-16 school year. Note: This change doesn’t apply to children in upper grades, in other words, a review of records for children in first through 12th grade isn’t necessary.

- **Kindergarten through 12th grade** - The immunization law now specifies that students in all grades have documentation for all required vaccines. If the school requests immunization records for any student (K-12), parents must comply by providing the immunization dates or a legal exemption. The requirement for schools to report compliance at kindergarten and seventh grade to MDH remains unchanged.

**Early Childhood Programs Now Included**

New to Minnesota’s Immunization Law are early childhood programs which include programs that provide instructional or other services to support children’s learning and development and:

- Serve children from birth to kindergarten.
- Meet at least once a week for at least six weeks or more during the year.

Children enrolled or enrolling in these types of programs must provide proof of immunizations or have a legal exemption for:

- DTaP
- Polio
- MMR
- Hib
- Varicella
- Pneumococcal (2-24 months)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B

Note: Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) was previously included in the Immunization Law.

**For more information**
Visit [www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize) (click on Immunization Laws in the left column) or call the Immunization Program at 651-201-5503, 1-800-657-3970.

October 2013
### Are Your Kids Ready?

**Minnesota’s Immunization Law**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization Requirements</th>
<th>The following immunizations are required beginning Sept. 1, 2014. To enter into child care, early childhood programs, and elementary or secondary schools (public or private), children need to have certain immunizations. Use this chart as a quick reference to determine which vaccines are required for enrollment. See below for exemption information.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Birth through 4 years** | **Age: 5 through 6 years**  
Early childhood programs  
& Child care |
| **Age: 7 through 11 years** | **Age: 12 years and older**  
For Kindergarten  
For 1st through 6th grade  
For 7th through 12th grade |
| **Hepatitis A** | **Hepatitis B**  
3 doses |
| **Hepatitis B** | **DTaP**  
5 doses  
5th shot not needed if 4th was after age 4 |
| **Polio** | **Polio**  
4 doses  
4th polio not needed if 3rd was after age 4 |
| **MMR** | **MMR**  
2 doses |
| **Hib**  
*Haemophilus influenzae type b* | **Varicella**  
2 doses |
| **Pneumococcal**  
age 2-24 months | **Hepatitis B**  
3 doses |
| **Varicella**  
1 | **Varicella**  
1 |
| **Varicella**  
1 |

**Immunizations recommended but not required by the Immunization Law:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Influenza</strong></th>
<th>Recommended annually for all children age 6 months and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rotavirus</strong></td>
<td>Recommended for infants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Human papillomavirus</strong></td>
<td>Recommended at age 11 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. **Exemptions**

   To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they’ve had these immunizations or file a legal exemption with the school.
   
   Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

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**Looking for Vaccination Records?**

For copies of your child’s vaccination records, talk to your doctor or call the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) at 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970.

(MDH, 10/2013)