

Dear Upper Perkiomen Families,

The Pennsylvania Department of Health issued revised regulations to update the requirements for school immunization, effective with the 2017-2018 school year. The revisions to the regulations include the following:

1. **NEW REQUIREMENTS:** Revised list of immunizations required for school admittance and attendance (located at 28 Pa. Code Sec. 23.83), including changes to the requirements for some vaccines/immunity and a new requirement for administration of meningococcal conjugate vaccine for entrance into 12th grade. ([Please see the attached flyer for specific vaccination details](#)).
2. **CRITICAL CHANGE:** Changes to provisional admittance - **a student may no longer be provisionally admitted for any amount of time if they do not have a vaccine for which only a single dose is required, and at least one dose of a multiple dose vaccine series.** If a student has received at least one dose of a multiple dose vaccine series by the first day of attendance that school year, the school administrator or administrator's designee (which could be the school nurse) may provisionally admit the child when one of the following occurs:
 - The child will receive the final dose **within five school days of the first day of attendance.** The parent/guardian must provide proof of immunization on or before the fifth school day.
 - Future Kindergarten students will not be enrolled unless verification of at least one dose of all required immunizations.
 - The child will receive the next scheduled dose in a series **within five school days of the first day of attendance.** The parent/guardian must provide a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day scheduling the additional required doses.
 - When the next dose *is not medically appropriate during the five school days following the first day of attendance*, the parent/guardian must provide a **medical certificate on or before the fifth school day scheduling the additional required doses.**
 - Students in 7th and 12th grade **do not have a 5-day grace period** and MUST have required immunizations at the beginning of the 2017—2018 school year.

The regulations did not change the provisions for exemptions for medical and religious reasons, but additional exceptions were added to the immunization requirements for homeless students, and for foster care students and transfer students who have specific requirements. An exception was also added for the Secretary of Health to issue temporary waivers in cases of vaccine shortages or where a disaster impacts the ability for transfer students to provide their records.

Our administrators and nursing staff are currently reviewing documentation of student vaccinations. The district asks that families be prepared for the pending changes that take effect the first day of school by taking time to verify the vaccinations of your son/daughter prior to the onset of the school year.

The immunizations required on the first day of the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

All Students

- 4 doses of Tetanus and Diphtheria (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)(usually given as DTP, DTaP, DT, Td)
- 4 doses of polio (last dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 2 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (usually given as MMR)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox) or history of disease

Students in 7th Grade

- 1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

Students in 12th Grade

- 2 doses of MCV (Second dose after 16 yrs. of age)

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming changes, please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse in the building your son/daughter is enrolled.

Respectfully,

Andrea J. Farina, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent