



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
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*Commissioner*

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Dear Colleague:

We would like to make you aware of changes to child care and school immunization requirements in effect for the 2015-16 school year in New York City (NYC). Highlights of the changes are as follows:

- Students **entering** grades K through 12 are required to have 2 doses of measles- and mumps-containing vaccines, and 1 dose of rubella-containing vaccine.
- Students **entering** grades K, 1, 6 and 7 are required to have 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. One dose of varicella vaccine is required for all other grades.
- Students **entering** grades K, 1, 6 and 7 are required to have 4 doses of polio vaccine, unless the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose was received at 4 years of age or older, in which case only 3 doses are required. Three doses of polio vaccine are required for all other grades.
- Students **entering** grades K-5 who are less than 7 years of age are required to have 5 doses of DTaP. Four doses are acceptable if the 4<sup>th</sup> dose was received at 4 years of age or older and 3 doses are acceptable if the series was started at age 7 years or older. Because DTaP cannot be administered to children after age 6 years, children aged 7 years and older who are not complete should receive a single dose of Tdap and, if additional doses are needed, Td until series completion.

The full requirements are attached and available at [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/sch-med-req.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/sch-med-req.pdf). The school requirements are in alignment with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations with respect to number of doses required of each vaccine and the spacing intervals between doses; see [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules). In most cases, if the CIR record says that a child's immunization status is up-to-date (UTD), then that child may be considered UTD for school, as well. Alternative schedules and philosophic objections to vaccinations are not allowed. Students who are not in compliance with school immunization requirements will be excluded from school.

Additional information on the new school requirements, including Frequently Asked Questions, is available at: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/). If you have questions about immunization requirements for school admission, please contact us at (347) 396-2400 or e-mail [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). Thank you for keeping NYC children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc  
Assistant Commissioner



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# SEPTEMBER 2015

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND NEW SCHOOL ENTRANTS

(PUBLIC, PRIVATE, PAROCHIAL, CHILD CARE CENTERS AND SCHOOLS)

### **ALL STUDENTS ENTERING A NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL OR CHILD CARE FOR THE FIRST TIME MUST HAVE A COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND ALL REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS**

The comprehensive medical examination must be documented on a Child Adolescent Health Examination Form (CH205) and include the following:

Weight	Blood Pressure	Vision Screening	Dental Screening	Developmental Assessment
Height	Body Mass Index	Hearing Screening	Medical History	Nutritional Evaluation

All students entering New York City public or private schools or child care (including Universal Pre-K classes) for the first time must submit a report of a physical examination performed within one year of school entry. Because children develop and grow so quickly at these early ages, if this initial examination is performed before the student is 5 years old, a second examination, performed between the child's 5th and 6th birthday, is also required. Fillable CH205 forms that include the student's pre-populated vaccination histories are available in the New York City Immunization Registry (CIR). A savable version of the pre-populated CH205 is also available in CIR and is accessible for use and updates as needed.

Required Screening for Child Care Only	
Screening	Required Information
Anemia Screening	Hematocrit and Hemoglobin
Lead Screening, Assessment and Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children under 6 years must be assessed annually for lead exposure.</li> <li>Blood lead tests are required for children at ages 1 and 2 years AND other children up to age 6 years if they are at risk of exposure OR if no lead test was previously documented.</li> <li>For more information, call the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 311, or visit <a href="http://nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/lead/lead-guidelines-children.pdf">nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/lead/lead-guidelines-children.pdf</a></li> </ul>

## IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS 2015–16

The following immunization requirements are mandated by law for all students between the ages of 2 months and 18 years. Children must be excluded from school if they do not meet these requirements. To be considered fully immunized, a child must have an immunization history that includes all of the following vaccines. The child's immunization record should be evaluated according to the grade he or she is attending this school year.

### **PROVISIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

New students may enter school or child care provisionally with documentation of at least this initial series of immunizations. Once admitted provisionally, subsequent vaccines must be administered in accordance with the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) "catch up" schedule for the child to be considered "in process" and remain in school (refer to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html) for schedule). Alternative schedules are not acceptable. Students must complete the entire series to comply with the law. Students who have not been immunized within the provisional period must be issued an exclusion letter and excluded from school or child care until they comply with the requirements.

CHILD CARE/PRE-KINDERGARTEN	NO. OF DOSES
DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis) OR DTP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis).....	1
IPV (inactivated poliovirus) or OPV (oral poliovirus).....	1
MMR (measles-mumps-rubella).....	1
On or after the first birthday	
Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b).....	1
Hepatitis B.....	1
Varicella.....	1
On or after the first birthday	
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV).....	1
Influenza.....	1
Depending on their influenza vaccination history, some children may need two doses of influenza vaccine	

KINDERGARTEN/GRADES 1–12	NO. OF DOSES
DTaP, DTP, DT, Td (tetanus-diphtheria) OR Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis).....	1
Vaccine type as appropriate for age	
Tdap.....	1
IPV or OPV.....	1
MMR.....	1
On or after the first birthday	
Hepatitis B.....	1
Varicella.....	1

# FULL COMPLIANCE

## 2015–16 School Year

### New York State Requirements for Child Care and School Entrance/Attendance<sup>1</sup>

**NOTES:** For grades Pre-K through 7, intervals between doses of vaccine should be in accordance with the ACIP-recommended immunization schedule for persons 0 through 18 years of age (exception: intervals between doses of polio vaccine need to be reviewed only for grades kindergarten, 1, 6 and 7). Intervals between doses of vaccine DO NOT need to be reviewed for grades 8 through 12. Doses received before the minimum age or intervals are not valid and do not count toward the number of doses listed below. See footnotes for specific information and dose requirements for each vaccine.\* Children who are enrolling in grade-less classes should meet the immunization requirements of the grades for which they are age equivalent.

\*Footnotes reflect updates as of May 2015. Please refer to [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/) for updated information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

VACCINES	PRE-KINDERGARTEN (Child Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-K)	KINDERGARTEN through 1	GRADES 2 through 5	GRADES 6 through 7	GRADES 8 through 12
<b>Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4 doses</b>	<b>5 doses</b> or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received at 4 years of age or older or 3 doses if the series is started at 7 years of age or older		<b>3 doses</b>	
<b>Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine booster (Tdap)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>			<b>1 dose</b>	
<b>Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>3 doses</b>	<b>4 doses</b> or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years of age or older	<b>3 doses</b>	<b>4 doses</b> or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years of age or older	<b>3 doses</b>
<b>Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>1 dose</b>	<b>2 doses</b>			
<b>Hepatitis B vaccine<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3 doses</b>	<b>3 doses</b>			
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>1 dose</b>	<b>2 doses</b>	<b>1 dose</b>	<b>2 doses</b>	<b>1 dose</b>
<b>Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib)<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>1 to 4 doses</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>			
<b>Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>1 to 4 doses</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>			
<b>Influenza Vaccine<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>1 dose</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>			

1. Demonstrated serologic evidence of measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella or polio (for all three serotypes) antibodies is acceptable proof of immunity to these diseases. Diagnosis by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner that a child has had varicella disease is acceptable proof of immunity to varicella.
2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a 5-dose series of DTaP vaccine at ages 2, 4, 6, 15 through 18 months, and 4 years of age or older. The fourth dose may be received as early as age 12 months, provided at least six months have elapsed since the third dose. However, the fourth dose of DTaP need not be repeated if it was administered at least four months after the third dose of DTaP. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least six months after the previous dose.
  - b. If the fourth dose of DTaP was administered at age 4 years or older, the fifth (booster) dose of DTaP vaccine is not necessary.
  - c. For children born prior to 1/1/2005, doses of DT and Td meet the immunization requirement for diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.
  - d. Children ages 7 through 10 years who are not fully immunized with the childhood DTaP vaccine series should receive Tdap vaccine as the first dose in the catch-up series; if additional doses are needed, use Td vaccine. A Tdap vaccine (or incorrectly administered DTaP vaccine) received at 7 years of age or older meets the sixth grade Tdap requirement. For previously unvaccinated children 7 years of age and older, the immunization requirement is three doses. Tdap should be given for the first dose, followed by two doses of Td in accordance with the ACIP recommended immunization schedule: these children should receive an initial Tdap followed four weeks later by a Td, and then six months later by another Td.
3. Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. (Minimum age: 7 years)
  - a. Students 11 years of age or older entering grades six through 12 are required to have one dose of Tdap. A dose received at 7 years of age or older will meet this requirement.
  - b. Students without Tdap who are 10 years old in grade six are in compliance until they turn 11 years of age.
4. Inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a series of IPV at ages 2, 4, 6 through 18 months, and 4 years of age or older. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least six months after the previous dose.
  - b. For students who received their fourth dose before August 7, 2010, four doses separated by at least four weeks is sufficient.
  - c. If both OPV and IPV are administered as part of a series, a total of four doses should be administered regardless of the child's current age.
5. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
  - a. The first dose of MMR vaccine must be received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be received at least 28 days (four weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
  - b. Students in grades kindergarten through 12 must receive two doses of measles-containing vaccine, two doses of mumps-containing vaccine and at least one dose of rubella-containing vaccine.
6. Hepatitis B vaccine
  - a. Dose one may be given at birth or anytime thereafter. Dose two must be received at least four weeks (28 days) after dose one. Dose three must be at least eight weeks after dose two AND at least 16 weeks after dose one AND no earlier than 24 weeks of age.
  - b. Two doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) received at least four months apart at age 11 through 15 years will meet the requirement.
  - c. Administration of a total of four doses of hepatitis B vaccine is permitted when a combination vaccine containing hepatitis B is administered after the birth dose. This fourth dose is often needed to ensure that the last dose in the series is given after 24 weeks of age.
7. Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
  - a. The first dose of varicella vaccine must be received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be received at least 28 days (four weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
  - b. Two doses of varicella vaccine are required for students in grades kindergarten, 1, 6 and 7.
  - c. One dose of varicella vaccine is required for pre-kindergarten and grades 2 through 5 and 8 through 12.
8. Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive Hib vaccine at 2, 4, 6, and 12 through 15 months of age.
  - b. If two doses of vaccine are received before 12 months of age, only three doses are required with dose three at 12 through 15 months of age and at least eight weeks after dose two.
  - c. If dose one is received at ages 12 through 14 months of age, only two doses are required with dose two at least eight weeks after dose one.
  - d. If dose one is received at 15 months of age or older, only one dose is required.
  - e. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age or older.
9. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
  - a. Children starting the series on time should receive PCV vaccine at ages 2, 4, 6, and 12 through 15 months of age. The final dose must be received at age 12 through 15 months of age.
  - b. Unvaccinated children 7 through 11 months of age are required to receive two doses, at least four weeks apart, followed by a third dose at age 12 through 15 months.
  - c. Unvaccinated children 12 through 23 months of age are required to receive two doses of vaccine at least eight weeks apart.
  - d. If one dose of vaccine is received at 24 months of age or older, no further doses are required.
  - e. For further information, refer to the PCV chart available in the School Survey Instruction Booklet at [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/).
10. Influenza Vaccine
  - a. All children 6 months through 59 months of age enrolled in New York City Article 47 & 43 regulated pre-kindergarten programs (Child Care, Head Start, Nursery, or Pre-K) must receive one dose of influenza vaccine between July 1 and December 31 of each year. Some children may need two doses of influenza vaccine, depending on their prior influenza vaccination history. Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov/flu/](http://cdc.gov/flu/)) or New York City Department of Health ([nyc.gov/html/living/immun-prov.shtml](http://nyc.gov/html/living/immun-prov.shtml)) websites, or check the child's immunization record in the Citywide Immunization Registry for additional information and guidelines.

*For further information contact:*

New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization, Room 649, Corning Tower ESP, Albany, NY 12237, 518-473-4437  
 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Program Support Unit, Bureau of Immunization, 42-09 28th Street, 5th Floor, LIC, NY 11101, 347-396-2433.  
 Office of School Health Citywide Contact Number (all districts): 347-396-4720