

What families need to know about the changes to R.I.'s immunization requirements

Who will this affect?

Children upon initial entry or attending any public or non-public child care center, family child care home, nursery school, or any program licensed or certified by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families which provides regular educational services to children in Rhode Island.

There are changes to the immunization requirements for students entering kindergarten, grade 7, grade 12, and college in addition to preschoolers. Refer to the second page for additional information.

What has changed?

Beginning on August 1, 2015, children attending preschool will need to be immunized against hepatitis A and rotavirus. Also effective on August 1, children ages 6 to 59 months will be required to get an annual flu vaccination between July 1 and December 31 of each year.

What does this mean?

Children attending preschool should have the following age-appropriate* immunizations:

- DTaP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis);
- Polio;
- MMR (measles/mumps/rubella);
- Hib (haemophilus influenza type b);
- Hepatitis B;
- Varicella (chickenpox);
- PCV (pneumococcal disease);
- Rotavirus;
- Hepatitis A; and
- Influenza (flu)

* The Rhode Island [Department of Health website](#) has additional information about age-appropriate dosages for pre-kindergarten students.

Are there any exemptions?

Any student who is not in compliance with these vaccination requirements shall be excluded from attending preschool or school until the requirements are met, unless the student belongs in an exemption category or is in a waiting period between doses.

A student may be exempt from the immunization requirements if:

- a) The student is exempt from a specific vaccine because of medical reasons. A "[Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate](#)" is signed by a physician;
- b) A parent or guardian completes and signs a "[Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate](#)" attesting that the immunization conflicts with their religious beliefs.

Immunization requirements are based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and healthcare providers in Rhode Island. We recommend that you contact your child's physician with any questions regarding immunizations and age-appropriate doses.



**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT CHANGES FOR
RHODE ISLAND PRESCHOOL (INCLUDES CHILD CARE), SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE/UNIVERSITIES**

| Immunization Regulations | Current Requirements | New Requirements Effective 2015 |
|--|---|--|
| Preschool & Childcare Centers | <i>Children:</i> "Age appropriate immunization for all CDC recommended vaccines" includes DTaP, Hib, HepB, polio, PCV, MMR, varicella <i>Child care workers:</i> no vaccines currently required in regulations | Add vaccines for children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rotavirus ▪ Hepatitis A ▪ Influenza Add for child care workers: 1Tdap; annual influenza vaccination; 2 MMR, 2 varicella (reference 1&2) |
| Kindergarten | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 Hepatitis B ▪ 4-5 DTaP ▪ 3-4 Polio ▪ 2 MMR ▪ 2 Varicella | Add: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Polio change: All kids will need documentation of a dose of polio given after 4 yrs of age (even if 4 doses were given before 2 years) (reference 2) |
| Grade 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Tdap ▪ 1 MCV | Add: 3 HPV (males & females) (reference 2) Section 3.3.7 Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine (a) Beginning August 1, 2014, all students upon initial entry to seventh (7th) grade, shall be required to receive at least one (1) dose of the HPV vaccine series. (b) Beginning August 1, 2015, all students entering eighth (8th) grade shall be required to have completed the HPV vaccine series (3 doses) administered in accordance with ACIP recommendations. (c) Beginning August 1, 2019, this requirement shall apply to all students attending grades eight (8) through twelve (12) and all students in ungraded classrooms. The following dates are in effect for the grades, as specified: August 1, 2015: 8 August 1, 2016: 8,9 August 1, 2017: 8,9,10 August 1, 2018: 8,9,10, 11 August 1, 2019: 8,9,10,11, 12 |
| Grade 12 (proposed) | Evidence of all of above | Add: Booster dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV) for entry into 12 th grade (reference 2) <i>Note: we have proposed 12th grade because we know all students entering 12th grade are at least 16 years of age (when booster dose of MCV is given)</i> |
| College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 Hepatitis B ▪ 1 Td ▪ 2 measles/1mumps/1rubella ▪ 2 Varicella ▪ Meningococcal vaccine recommended only but colleges are <u>required</u> to provide educational information about meningococcal disease and availability of vaccine | Add: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Tdap ▪ 2 MMR ▪ Meningococcal vaccine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) One (1) dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine is required for <i>previously unvaccinated</i> incoming students (under twenty-two (22) years of age). (b) Evidence of a second (booster dose) of MCV4 vaccine is required for incoming students (under twenty-two (22) years of age) if the first dose was given before sixteen (16) years of age.(reference 2) |

References

1. National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education 2011. *Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs. 3rd edition.* <http://nrckids.org>
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Vaccines and Immunizations: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*, Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#vacc>