

IROQUOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Immunization Regulations Policy

(Adopted: 01/18/1983)

(Revised: 04/16/2002)

(Revised: 05/14/2007)

PURPOSE:

The Department of Health, with the approval of the State Advisory Health Board, has amended the immunization requirements that children seeking to enter and attend school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall meet. The regulations were published in the September 29, 2001 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

This rule-making is intended to control the spread of diseases in schools, which are known to be ideal settings for the transmission of communicable diseases. Requiring immunity before a child enters school in first grade or kindergarten, or before the child is permitted to attend a school in the Commonwealth, protects that child before the child enters an environment, which readily lends itself to the transmission of disease. Further, ensuring that children are appropriately immunized carries with it advantages for the public as a whole, including other high-risk populations, as well as for the child. There is less chance of other persons contacting a highly infectious disease if children are vaccinated, and less chance of outbreaks of contagious diseases occurring.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS:

1. Requires that all children at any grade, kindergarten through 12th, including all public, private, parochial, intermediate unit and home schooled students, show proof of immunization before they can attend school in the Commonwealth.
2. Any student in Kindergarten through 12th grade, or any student transferring from another school district may be admitted without the immunizations, as listed in #6, under the circumstances of religious or medical exemption. A student may be enrolled on a medical provision if evidence of at least one dose of each antigen is given. If a student is enrolled under a medical provision, the physician must sign a documented plan for immunization completion. It shall be submitted to the School Nurse and reviewed every thirty (30) days. The next immunization will be given as soon as medically indicated. If the requirements are not met, the School Administrator shall undertake suspension procedures.
3. Requires that a completed Certificate of Immunization be on file at the school where each student attends. The Certificate of Immunization shall become the school immunization record or the record of exemption. This certificate may be recorded and maintained in a computer data base program.
4. Requires that the Certificate of Immunization or a facsimile be sent to the new school when a child is promoted or is transferred. The record or facsimile may also be given to the parent or guardian when the student transfers to another school, graduates or otherwise leaves the school district.
5. Maintains the present once a year reporting date of October 15 of each year.
6. The following MINIMUM immunizations are required for entry into ALL grade levels:

- a. Diphtheria and Tetanus - 4 or more properly spaced doses DTP, DTaP, TD or DT, or any combination of the two with 1 dose administered on or after the fourth birthday.
 - b. Polio - 3 or more properly spaced doses of polio vaccine. (IPV or OPV) students 18 years of age and older are exempted.
 - c. Measles (Rubeola) - Two properly spaced doses of live attenuated measles containing vaccine (preferably MMR) with the first dose administered at 12 months of age or older, or measles immunity proved by serological evidence determined by the hemagglutination inhibition (HI) test or any comparable test.
 - d. German Measles (Rubella) - One dose of live attenuated rubella containing vaccine (preferable MMR) administered at 12 months of age or older, or rubella immunity proved by serological evidence determined by the hemagglutination inhibition (HI) test or any comparable test.
 - e. Mumps - One dose of live attenuated mumps containing vaccine (preferably MMR) administered at 12 months of age or older, or a physician diagnosis of mumps disease indicated by a written record signed by a physician or his/her designee.
 - f. Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunity – One dose of Varivax-chicken pox vaccine age 12 or under or two doses of Varivax if age 13 or older when first dose is given, or proof of disease of chicken pox, or serology indicating student has immunity to chicken pox.
 - g. Hepatitis B – Three properly spaced doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.
7. Students who entered school before 1997-1998 school year may have: Diphtheria and Tetanus – 3 or more properly spaced doses of DTP, DTaP, TD, or DT, or any combination of the two.

CERTIFICATION OF IMMUNIZATION:

The “Certificate of Immunization” record card will be supplied by the Department of Health to each school district. The front side should be used to record immunization information. The reverse side of the *Certificate of Immunization Card* will serve as the written exemption. If a parent is claiming an exemption, only that side of the card needs to be filled out. A signed statement must be attached by the Parent for religious exemption, and by a licensed Medical/Osteopathic Doctor for Medical exemption. The exemption card should be filed so that the exemption statement is facing front. The wide line at the top of the exemption side of the card will make identification of the students claiming religious and medical exemptions easy, in the event of an outbreak of the diseases that the student is not immunized against, so that these students will be excluded from school.