

**~~RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE KINDERGARTEN  
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THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO ACT  
244 OF 1967, ACT 633 OF 1973, AND ACT 871 OF 1997~~**

Requirements:

~~No infant or child shall be admitted to a public or private school or childcare facility of this State, irrespective of grade or transfer, who has not been age appropriately immunized against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Red (Rubeola) Measles, Rubella (German Measles), and other diseases as designated by the State Board of Health, except as otherwise provided by law, as evidenced by a certificate of a licensed physician or a public health department acknowledging the immunization.~~

Exemptions

**~~1. Medical~~**

~~A. Only a letter issued by the MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE/IMMUNIZATION, stating the vaccine or vaccines for which a child is exempt are to be accepted as a valid medical exemption by the school. Statements from private physicians are not to be accepted by the school without this letter.~~

~~B. A child who has had a vaccine preventable disease, as documented by an appropriate diagnostic or blood serology test, should not be required to have the vaccine for that disease. A child who is uncertain of their disease history or has lost his/her immunization records should be immunized for those diseases, if serology test results are unavailable.~~

**~~2. Religious~~**

~~The Arkansas Department of Health's standard form for religious exemptions must be submitted to the Division of CD/Immunization. This form is available from the Arkansas Department of Health upon request. A notarized statement is required from a Pastor or church official that the parents or guardians are members or adherents of a recognized church or religious denomination whose tenets are opposed to immunization.~~

Documentation

~~The following documentation of student immunizations is required:~~

~~All schools may use the Arkansas Immunization/Health Record as a standard form for recording immunization information. Public and private schools may order the form~~

from the Arkansas Department of Health. Immunization records may be stored on a computer database, such as the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN), as long as a copy of the original source document is contained in the student's permanent file. It shall be the responsibility of the school to maintain a list of students not appropriately immunized a list of transfer students, and a list of students with medical or religious exemptions.

The only proof of immunizations to be accepted by the school authority shall be a certificate by a licensed physician, health department, or the military service, acknowledging the same, stating the vaccine type, and dates of vaccine administration must be provided and entered on the school record. Terms such as "up to date", "complete", "adequate", etc. are not to be used.

The Department of Health is charged with the responsibility of immunizing all children who need vaccine. In order to identify areas where additional emphasis is needed and to measure levels, the Arkansas Department of Health will conduct annual surveys and on-site immunization record audits of selected grades in all schools. The schools' cooperation in completing these surveys and audits is required.

#### Exclusion from School

The responsibility for the enforcement of the Immunization Law rests equally with each school district of this state and the parent or guardian of the student and each of them shall be separately and individually liable for permitting any violation of this law.

Students will not be allowed to attend school unless they can document appropriate immunizations or are in the process of completing the minimum requirements. "In process" means they have received at least one dose of the required immunizations and are waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional doses. When a student is admitted who is in the process of completing the required minimum immunizations, it is the responsibility of the school to assure the student completes the required doses on schedule. A written statement from a public health nurse (IMM 25) or private physician stating that the child is in process and containing a date when he/she must return for the next immunization should be in the student's file. If a student does not produce documentation of additional immunizations per the schedule, they must be excluded from school until documentation is provided (Attorney General Opinion NO. 78-47, April 3, 1978). When students are in violation of the compulsory school attendance law, the local enforcing authority shall be notified. The immunization series does not need to be restarted as each dose of vaccine counts toward the minimum requirement.

Students who are exempt or deficient (except those who have had the disease) will be excluded from school if the Health Department determines that a sufficient outbreak of the related disease exists in the local community.

## **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION GUIDELINES**

Prepared by the Arkansas Departments of Health and Education

“Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Communicable Disease Control”, Arkansas State Board of Health as authorized by Act 96 of 1913 (Arkansas Statutes, 1947, Section 82-110). Section XII: GENERAL IMMUNIZATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY ACTS 224 OF 1967, 633 OF 1973, AND 871 OF 1997.

### Immunization Requirements for School Entry

The requirements\* for entry into school, irrespective of grade, are at least three doses of Acellular Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP), Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP), Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT pediatric), or Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td Adult), at least three doses of polio vaccine; two doses of Rubeola (measles) vaccine, one dose of Rubella (German measles) vaccine and one dose of Mumps vaccine. Additionally, three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine and one dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are required before entering Kindergarten. Three doses of Hepatitis B are required for Transfer students (students not in your school district last school year) and students entering the seventh grade.

School officials are required to evaluate the immunization status of all children in their facilities. The following chart is used to determine if the child meets the immunization requirements to enter school. Vaccine	Minimum Number Of Doses Required	Additional Requirements
Polio OPV—Oral IPV—Inactivated	3	The last dose of polio vaccine must have been administered on or after the child's 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday. These 3 doses are required for all students, Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade and Transfer.