

West Virginia Immunization Requirements for New School Enterers

State law and rules¹ require that all children entering school in West Virginia for the first time in grades K-12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and hepatitis B unless properly medically exempted². The table below outlines immunization requirements as most commonly met³. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health recommends that vaccine doses administered 4 days or fewer before the minimum interval or age should be considered valid.

Vaccine	Requirement	Provisional Enrollment	Additional Information
DTaP/DTP Td/Tdap	Before admission, four doses required. One dose must be after the 4 th birthday.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 8 months to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three doses only for children completing primary series at age 7 years and older. • Children exempted from the pertussis component of DTaP vaccine should receive DT vaccine instead, or if past 7th birthday, Td / Tdap vaccine, as applicable.
Polio (IPV)	Before admission, three doses required. One dose must be after the 4 th birthday.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 90 days to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If polio immunization series included both OPV and IPV, then a total of 4 doses are required.
Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)	Before admission, two doses required. First dose must be after the 1 st birthday.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 30 days to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doses should be a minimum of 28 days apart.
Varicella	Before admission, two doses required. First dose must be after the 1 st birthday.	After one dose, children less than 13 years of age may be allowed up to 90 days to obtain 2 nd dose; children aged 13 years and older may be allowed up to 30 days to obtain the 2 nd dose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children less than 13 years of age must have a minimum interval of 12 weeks between the 1st and 2nd doses. • Children aged 13 years and older may receive the 2nd dose 28 days after the first dose. • Immunity may also be demonstrated through the legal guardian's written or verbal attestation of varicella (chickenpox) disease.
Hepatitis B	Before admission, three doses required. Last dose must be after the age of 6 months.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 4 months to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final dose is not valid if administered before 24 weeks / 6 months of age.

¹ See WV Code §16-3-4 and 64CSR95 for further information.

² Medical exemptions must be requested by a physician who has treated or examined the child and be reviewed and approved by the local health officer in the county in which the child attends school. Requests for exemptions must be based on current standards of immunization practice and include the following information: the vaccine(s) being exempted, the specific medical reason for the exemption, whether the exemption is temporary or permanent, and, if temporary, when the exemption should be reevaluated. West Virginia State Law does not allow for non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

³ Occasionally, based on product used or the age at which a child is being immunized, deviations from these requirements may be acceptable. Any deviation must be consistent with applicable, age appropriate immunization schedules found at <http://www.cdc.gov> and searching under "Immunization Schedules".

**Adolescent
immunization**



Wyoming County Schools

School Entry Immunization Requirements for 7th and 12th Graders

Dear Parent,

Vaccines save lives and protect our children. When young children are about to enter PreK and kindergarten for the first time, parents have to make sure that their child is up to date on their shots. However, young children are not the only ones that need shots.

Students entering 7th grade and 12th grade now have shot requirements. These requirements must be met before they can start school or take part in sports or extracurricular activities. Children that are current with their adolescent shots may have already met the new requirements, however many have not. The following shots are required before the beginning of the school year:

- 7th Graders must show proof of a booster dose of Tdap vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a dose of the meningitis vaccine.
- 12th Graders also must show proof of a single dose of Tdap and a booster dose of the meningitis vaccine. If the first dose of meningitis vaccine was given after the 16th birthday, then a booster dose of meningitis vaccine is not required.

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective preventive measures available and have saved countless lives. The new adolescent immunization requirements will not only lengthen the time for which immunized students are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases, but will also lower their chances of passing diseases to the elderly, children and infants, or classmates with weakened immune systems. Immunizations help keep adolescents healthy and prevent problems as they grow older.

Take your adolescent to their health care provider for a routine adolescent check-up to determine if your teen's shots are current and to meet the 7th and 12th grade school entry immunization requirements. Adolescents who are found to be missing shots can receive them during that visit. Teens without a family doctor/health care provider may visit a local provider, or the **Wyoming County** Health Department, for their immunizations. Please be advised that the Wyoming County Health Department is by appointment only.

For more information, please contact:
Your School Nurse
or
Your Child's Principal

TAKE
YOUR
BEST
SHOT