

Frequently Asked Questions for 2009/2010 New Vaccine School Requirements

Q. *What are the new vaccine requirements and why are they being added?*

A. Five new vaccine requirements have been added and the vaccines effected are: Hepatitis A; Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR); Varicella; Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap); and Meningococcal. The changes to the requirements were made in order to update the Texas elementary and secondary school immunization requirements so they adhere more closely to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

Q. *When will the new changes for school requirements be effective?*

A. The new school requirements will be effective August 1, 2009. From 3/5/09 through 7/31/09 the present rules will remain in effect.

Q. *What if a student had a previous illness of the varicella disease (chickenpox), will they still need the vaccine?*

A. No. If a student has had chickenpox, they will not need to receive the vaccination. A written statement from a parent (or legal guardian or managing conservator), school nurse, or physician attesting to a child's positive history of varicella disease (chickenpox), or of varicella immunity, is acceptable in lieu of either dose of varicella vaccine.

Q. *What if a student is entering 7th grade and it has been less than 5 years since the last tetanus-containing vaccine, will they still need the Tdap vaccination?*

A. Students in the seventh grade will be required to have a booster dose of Tdap only if it has been five years since their last dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Students in grades 8 through 12 will be required to have a booster dose of Tdap vaccine if it has been 10 years since their previous dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in lieu of Tdap if a contraindication to pertussis exists.



Q. What if a child already has two doses of measles-containing vaccine and only one dose of rubella, will they still need to get a second dose of MMR or will they need to start over and get two doses of MMR?

A. No. Students in grades 1 through 12 will remain compliant under the present MMR requirement. Only those students entering kindergarten to start the 2009/2010 school year will need to have 2 doses of MMR.

Q. Will there still be a Hepatitis A requirement for kindergarten through 3rd grade in counties designated as high risk?

A. No. The Hepatitis A requirement will apply statewide to students entering kindergarten. There will no longer be a special requirement for counties designated as high risk.

