

2009-10 Immunization Requirements for School Attendance

Today, we are all looking for ways to improve our health and that of our families. Immunizations remain one of the *best and most effective ways* to protect ourselves from many serious diseases. Many major medical organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians, recommend vaccinations/immunizations for children as they enter school and then booster updates as they enter adolescence and even into adulthood. Some diseases (like polio and diphtheria) are becoming very rare in the U.S. as a result of immunizations, smallpox has been eradicated.

7th Grade requirements

For the school year 2009-10, there is a new State of Florida immunization requirement for 7th grade. Students entering (or attending) 7th grade will be **REQUIRED to have a Tdap (tetanus- diphtheria- pertussis) prior** to attending class. A Td will NOT be accepted. If the student has had a recent Td, they will require a Temporary Medical Exemption for school entry (this must be documented on the Blue 680 Immunization record by the Department of Health clinic or a physician's office) which will allow them to wait 2-5 years from the date of the immunization received and they will then be required to receive the Tdap immunization at that time.

Many Middle schools will be holding Immunization clinics hosted by the DOH – check with your middle school for those dates.

2009-10 School Entry Immunization Requirements In the State of Florida

Minimum Doses Required per Grade			
Vaccine	Kindergarten- Grade 1	Grade 2-6	Grades 7-12
Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP) vaccine or age-appropriate tetanus vaccines	4-5	4-5	4-5
Hepatitis B (Hep B) Vaccine	3	3	2-3
Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)	3-4	3-4	3-4
MMR	2	2	2
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine	2	1	Grade 7-8 =1 Grade 9-12 =not required
NEW THIS YEAR- for Grade 7 only Tdap- Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis	0	0	Grade 7 only =1

Grade K-1

Students attending Grade K-1 are required in 2009-10 to have 2 varicella immunizations (or documented evidence of disease). Grades 2-8 only are required to have 1 varicella.

The 2009-10 school year begins on August 25, 2009. Prepare now. Have your child seen for an annual health exam and review their immunizations.

For additional information contact your school nurse or Pinellas County School Health Services at 588-6320.

Pinellas County Schools, 301 4th St. SW, Largo, FL 33770- <http://www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/>

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