



Guidelines for Assuring Minimum Immunization Requirements for Pre-Kindergarten Program Enterers

All children entering Pre-Kindergarten programs should be age appropriately immunized.¹ The following guidelines for parents and school personnel indicate the **minimum** number of doses for each vaccine needed for Pre-Kindergarten entry.^{2,3}

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|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Hepatitis A | 2 doses (1 st dose after 1 st birthday) (2 nd dose at least 6 months after 1st dose) | Hepatitis B | 3 doses (Final dose at age 24 weeks or older) |
| DTaP | 4 doses (Booster dose should not be given prior to 4 th birthday) | Varicella | 1 dose (After 1 st birthday) |
| IPV | 3 doses | MMR | 1 dose (After 1 st birthday) |
| Hib | <p>4 doses (3 doses if Pedvax[®] or Comvax[®] are used for full series) Children starting the series at greater than 6 months of age generally need: 3 doses if the first dose was given between 7-11 months of age 2 doses if the first dose was given between 12-14 months of age 1 dose if that dose was given between 15 and 59 months of age</p> <p>RULE: Any one dose of Hib vaccine after 15 months of age is the final dose needed</p> | | |
| PCV | <p style="text-align: center;">4 doses</p> <p>Children starting the series at greater than 6 months of age generally need: 3 doses if the first dose was given between 7-11 months of age 2 doses if the first dose was given at 12-23 months of age 1 dose if that dose was given between 24-59 months of age</p> <p>RULE: any one dose of PCV between 24-59 months of age is the final dose needed <u>for pre-K entry</u> (Some at-risk children are recommended for an additional dose at age 5-18.)</p> | | |

Students may be provisionally enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten with at least one dose of each required vaccine and allowed up to eight months to obtain up-to-date status.

For questions about the Pre-Kindergarten Entry Immunization Guidelines above contact the Division of Immunization Services at 1-800-642-3634.

¹ Applicable immunization schedules can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov> by searching under "Immunization Schedules".

² The term "Pre-Kindergarten" or "Pre-K" applies to designated programs for children ages 3 and 4 years old. The above vaccines are requirements for all WV public Pre-K programs in accordance with WVDE Policy 2525 (126CSR28), Universal Access to a Quality Early Education System. This includes any "WV Collaborative" Pre-K program supported through local education agencies (LEAs). Medical exemptions to the above should be granted in accordance with current standards of immunization practice endorsed by the AAP, AAFP, and ACIP.

³ These guidelines are also applicable to children age 18 months and older entering most childcare or preschool settings.



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Rocco S. Fucillo
Cabinet Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 17, 2013

TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers
School Nurses and Principals

FROM: Jeffrey J. Neccuzi, Director *J. J. N.*
Division of Immunization Services

RE: MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRE-K ENTRY

Enclosed please find the revised *Minimum Immunizations for Pre-Kindergarten Program Entry*. These requirements are authorized by three rules, 64CSR95, 126CSR28 and 126CSR51. All of these rules cite the joint recommendations of the AAP, AAFP, and the ACIP as the basis of age-appropriate immunizations which are required for entry into Pre-K programs. The WV State Board of Education Rule 126CSR28 (Policy 2525-Universal PreK) states that "all children entering an approved participating West Virginia Pre-K classroom must have age appropriate immunizations upon enrollment as defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics and recommended by WVDHHR."

There is a significant difference between these Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) guidelines and those for K-12 school entry. It is very clear in the joint recommendations of the AAP, AAFP and ACIP that the booster doses of polio and DTaP vaccines and the 2nd doses of MMR and varicella vaccines are recommended at 4-6 years of age and that a Pre-K child is still age-appropriately immunized even if these booster and "insurance" doses are not yet received at four years of age.

Therefore, though some school officials may strongly encourage these vaccinations to be received shortly after a child's 4th birthday, the booster and insurance doses listed above are not required as a condition for a child to enter or remain in a Pre-K program after the 4th birthday. However, each of these immunizations **is** required for *kindergarten* entry.

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Also, it is necessary to clarify issues concerning provisional enrollment. First, a provisional enrollment period should not be granted until at least one dose of each required vaccination that is lacking has been provided. Also, though students may be allowed up to 8 months for provisional enrollment (in the most extreme scenario with DTaP vaccine only) they should not be provided a provisional enrollment period longer than what is a reasonable period of time considering the vaccines and the number of doses needed to be in compliance with the Pre-kindergarten entry requirements.

For example, if a child needs two doses of a vaccine for which there is a minimum interval of 4 weeks between doses then the child should be required to have the first dose before beginning the provisional enrollment then a provisional enrollment period of 5 or 6 weeks (to be *reasonable*) to obtain the 2nd dose.

Secondly, a provisional enrollment may be provided only to children whose required immunizations are incomplete and cannot be complete with a single visit to their health care provider. If a student may receive whatever dose(s) needed for school entry in an immediate, single visit they may not be provisionally enrolled since the next dose can be received immediately. If a parent reports that they cannot get a timely appointment with their child's health care provider for immunization, remind the parent that the local county health department should be able to provide immunization immediately on a walk-in basis (although it is recommended to call ahead and ask for clinic hours).

Thanks to everyone who works to ensure children are appropriately immunized for pre-kindergarten and school entry. School nurses, principals and other education officials who need additional guidance in determining the amount of time or doses needed to establish a provisional enrollment period for a new enterer should consult the Division of Immunization Services at 1-800-642-3634 or visit <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeeps/immunization/Pages/default.aspx>.

JJN/lse

Enclosure

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