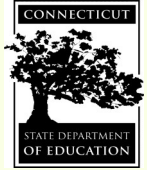




# THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

## JANUARY 2015



*Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
School Health Administrator  
School Nurse Consultant*

### **State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) School Flu Immunization Requirement: Q+A**

**1. Q: Why did the state health department make the influenza vaccine requirement only apply to children aged 24 months through 4 years (59 months)?**

A: In the United States each year an average of 20,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized because of flu complications. To reduce the risk of hospitalization from complications of influenza, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommend routine annual influenza vaccination of children older than 6 months. However, annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months - 4 years (59 months) and older children with conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza should continue to be a primary focus of vaccination efforts. By law, children age 6 months through 4 years who attend a licensed child care program and children age 24 months through 4 years who attend school must now receive an annual flu vaccination.

**2. Q: Why is it required that the flu vaccine be given during a specific time frame?**

A: 1) Most flu vaccine is distributed to health care providers (HCPs) by October and November each year so most HCPs should have their supplies at that time. 2) We also know that public requests for flu vaccine peaks around September–December. 3) If we can get a majority of children immunized within that four month timeframe, it will make monitoring the immunization status of a large number of children more manageable by the school or public health agency.

**3. Q: What is the recommended dosing schedule for influenza vaccine?**

A: According to the CDC recommended immunization schedule 2008, administer 2 doses (separated by 4 weeks or longer) to children younger than 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or who were vaccinated for the first time last season but only received one dose. Only one dose is recommended per flu season thereafter for children 6 months and over. The CT immunization regulation requires at a minimum 1 dose of influenza vaccine for school entry, each year between August 1st and December 31. For more information on influenza vaccines, visit: [www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/)

**4. Q: How should a school enforce the flu vaccine regulation for those children who have not received the flu shot by December 31st?**

A: Children who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31st must be excluded from school for the duration of influenza season (through March 31st) or until they receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine.

**5. Q: Do all children aged 24 months–4 years (59 months) who have not received a flu vaccine by December 31st need to be excluded from school?**

A: Children do not have to be excluded from school if the following conditions are met:

1) the school has received a statement signed by the child's HCP indicating that the child has an appointment to receive the required immunization (this is considered "immunization in progress"). Continued enrollment in school for more than thirty days after the named immunization appointment shall be contingent on the school receiving written documentation from the HCP stating either: that the named appointment was kept and the child received the scheduled immunizations, or that the child was unable to receive the scheduled immunizations for medical reasons and a new appointment date is named; 2) the school has received a statement signed and dated by the child's HCP indicating that the child has a medical contraindication to immunization; 3) the school has received a written statement that immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs and practices of the child or the parent of such child. Such statement shall be signed by the child's parent.

**6. Q: Is flu vaccine required after March?**

A: No, students enrolling in school after March 31st are not required to get vaccinated but flu season may extend until May and therefore getting a flu vaccine even late in the season is still protective.

The full Q+A document is located on the DPH Web site at [file:///C:/Users/KnutsonS/Desktop/flu\\_vaccine\\_requirement\\_for\\_schools%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/KnutsonS/Desktop/flu_vaccine_requirement_for_schools%20(1).pdf)

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health  
Immunization Department  
860-509-7929**

**Immunization Requirements for Enrolled Students in Connecticut Schools  
2015-16 School Year**



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLED  
STUDENTS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS  
2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR**



**PRE-SCHOOL**

**DTaP:** 4 doses (by 18 months for programs with children 18 months of age)  
**Polio:** 3 doses (by 18 months for programs with children 18 months of age)  
**MMR:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Hep B:** 3 doses, last one on or after 24 weeks of age  
**Varicella:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday or verification of disease  
**Hib:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Pneumococcal:** 1 dose administered each year between August 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>  
**Influenza:** (2 doses separated by at least 28 days required for those receiving flu for the first time)  
**Hepatitis A:** 2 doses given six calendar months apart, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday

**KINDERGARTEN**

**DTaP:** At least 4 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**Polio:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Hep B:** 2 doses separated by at least 3 months-1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, or verification of disease  
**Varicella:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday for children less than 5 years old  
**Pneumococcal:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday for children less than 5 years old  
**Hepatitis A:** 2 doses given six calendar months apart, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday

**GRADES 1-3**

**DTaP/Td:** At least 4 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students who start the series at age 7 or older only need a total of 3 doses.  
**Polio:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Hep B:** 3 doses, last dose on or after 24 weeks of age  
**Varicella:** 2 doses separated by at least 3 months-1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, or verification of disease  
**Hepatitis A:** 2 doses given six calendar months apart, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday

**GRADE 4**

**DTaP/Td:** At least 4 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students who start the series at age 7 or older only need a total of 3 doses.  
**Polio:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Hep B:** 3 doses, last dose on or after 24 weeks of age  
**Varicella:** 2 doses separated by at least 3 months-1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, or verification of disease

**GRADES 5-8**

**DTaP/Td:** At least 4 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students who start the series at age 7 or older only need a total of 3 doses.

Revised 12/16/2014

**GRADES 7-11**

**Polio:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Hep B:** 3 doses, last dose on or after 24 weeks of age  
**Varicella:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, or verification of disease  
**Tdap/Td:** 1 dose for students who have completed their primary DTaP series. Students who start the series at age 7 or older only need a total of 3 doses of tetanus-diphtheria containing vaccine, one of which must be Tdap  
**Polio:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Meningococcal:** 1 dose  
**Hep B:** 3 doses, last dose on or after 24 weeks of age  
**Varicella:** 2 doses separated by at least 3 months-1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, or verification of disease

**GRADE 12**

**Td/Tdap:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students who start the series at age 7 or older only need a total of 3 doses one of which should be Tdap.  
**Polio:** At least 3 doses. The last dose must be given on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**MMR:** 2 doses separated by at least 28 days, 1<sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday  
**Hep B:** 3 doses, last dose on or after 24 weeks of age  
**Varicella:** 1 dose on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, or verification of disease (2 doses separated by at least 28 days for any unvaccinated student)

**Important Reminders:**

- DTaP vaccine is not given on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and may be given for all doses in the primary series.
- Tdap can be given in lieu of Td vaccine for children 7 years and older unless contraindicated. Tdap is only licensed for one dose.
- Hib is not required for children 5 years of age or older.
- Pneumococcal is required for all Pre-K and K students born on or after 1/1/2007 and less than 5 years of age.
- Hep A requirement for school year 2015-16 applies to all Pre-K, K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders born 1/1/2007 or later.
- Hep B requirement for school year 2015-2016 applies to all students in grades K-12. Spacing intervals for a valid Hep B series: at least 4 weeks between doses 1 and 2; 8 weeks between doses 2 and 3; at least 16 weeks between doses 1 and 3; dose 3 should not be given before 24 weeks of age.
- Second MMR for school year 2015-2016 applies to all students in grades K-12.
- If two live virus vaccines (MMR, Varicella, MMRV, Intranasal Influenza) are not administered on the same day, they must be separated by at least 28 days (there is no 4 day grace period for live virus vaccines). If they are not separated by at least 28 days, the vaccine administered second must be repeated.
- Lab confirmation of immunity is only acceptable for Hep B, Hep A, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella.
- VERIFICATION OF VARICELLA DISEASE: Confirmation in writing by a MD, PA, or APRN that the child has a previous history of disease, based on family or medical history.
- For the full legal requirements for school entry visit [www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?n=3136&Q=467374&PM=1](http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?n=3136&Q=467374&PM=1)

**New Entrant Definition:**

\*New entrants are any students who are new to the school district, including all preschoolers and all students coming in from Connecticut private, parochial and charter schools located in the same or another community. All pre-schoolers, as well as all students entering kindergarten, including those repeating kindergarten, and those moving from any public or private pre-school program, even in the same school district, are considered new entrants. The one exception is students returning from private approved special education placements—they are not considered new entrants.

**Commonly Administered Vaccines:**

| Vaccine:       | Brand Name:   | Vaccine:  | Brand Name:                                  |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|--|
| DTaP-IPV-Hib   | Pentacel      | MMRV      | ProQuad                                      |
| DTaP-HIB       | TriHibit      | PCV7      | Prenvar                                      |
| HIB-Hep B      | Comvax        | PCV13     | Prenvar 13                                   |
| DTaP-IPV-Hep B | Pediarix      | DTaP-IPV  | Kinrix                                       |
| Hepatitis A    | Havrix, Vaqta | Influenza | Fuzone, FluMist, Fluviron, Fluarix, FluLaval |

Revised 12/16/2014

**Connecticut State Department of Education  
Ordering School Health Records  
2015-16 School Year**

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It is time to order Cumulative Health Records (CHR-1) and Health Assessment Records (HAR-3) for delivery in spring 2015, and use in the 2015-16 school year. Each district must determine the number of CHR-1 and HAR-3 forms needed based on its student population and number of forms currently in stock. Please order sufficient numbers to share with charter, private and parochial schools served by your district and with all health care provider offices in your community. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) only distributes CHR and HAR forms to public school districts. You are responsible for providing the health care providers in your community with forms.

Please complete the order form below for your district and return it to my attention at [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov) on or before March 2, 2015. We do not stock an excess of extra forms at the CSDE, therefore please order enough to cover your needs for one year only.

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Print or type clearly and return by March 2, 2015, to Stephanie Knutson at [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov).

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

District/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

CHR-1 folders (Number of packets): \_\_\_\_\_  
(50 folders per packet)

HAR-3 blue forms (Number of packets): \_\_\_\_\_  
(100 blue forms per packet)

## Professional Development Opportunities

### Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Program

Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Program provides consultation to school nurses, school nurse leaders, school administrators and the community regarding the health and safety of students. This consultation and technical assistance includes addressing the provisions of health services during the school day and the promotion of health and wellness activities that support student achievement. Professional development programs are periodically organized to further assist and support school nurses.

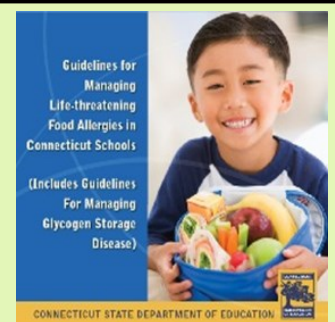
The Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site provides links to valuable resources for school nurses and other school staff. Publications on this Web site include:

- Bed Bug Guide for Connecticut Schools;
- Clinical Procedure Guidelines for Connecticut School Nurses;
- Education Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Lead Poisoning in Children;
- Field Trips: Guidance for School Nurses;
- Guidelines for Blood Glucose Self-Monitoring in School;
- Guidelines for Cumulative Health Records;
- Guidelines for Health Screenings: Vision, Hearing and Postural;
- Guidelines for Implementation of the Definitions of Excused and Unexcused Absences and Best Practices for Absence Prevention and Intervention;
- Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools (Includes Guidelines for Managing Glycogen Storage Disease);
- Suggested Recommendations for School Medical Advisors; and
- Tuberculosis Control Screening Guidelines in Schools.

The Web site is located at [www.ct.gov/sde/schoolnurse](http://www.ct.gov/sde/schoolnurse).

### Annual Epinephrine Training Program for Connecticut's Unlicensed School Personnel

**Information on Training opportunities will be provided in the  
February 2015 School Nurse Bulletin!**



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### Nondiscrimination Statement

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