



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

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Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH) School Flu Immunization Requirement for PreK Students: Question and Answer (Q+A)

The Connecticut immunization regulation requires at a minimum one dose of influenza vaccine for school entry, each year between August 1st and December 31, for all children aged 24 months - 4 years (59 months). For more information on influenza vaccines, visit the [State Department of Public Health's Web site](#).

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:

- 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;
- the school has received a statement signed and dated by the child's HCP indicating that the child has a medical contraindication to immunization;
- 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.

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.

Q: Where can a family go to get the flu vaccine if the pediatrician does not have any more flu vaccine?

A: If a HCP cannot provide the flu vaccine within the given time frame of August 1 - December 31st, documentation stating that the child has an appointment to receive the flu vaccine from his or her HCP would be acceptable.

Q: How is the 'flu season' defined?

A: Influenza season generally occurs during November through the end of March.

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.

Additional resources regarding **Seasonal Influenza** may be accessed on the DPH Web site at <http://portal.ct.gov/dph/Infectious-Diseases/Immunization/Seasonal-Influenza%20> and also at <http://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Communications/Pandemic-Influenza/Seasonal-Flu>.

Ordering Health Forms (CHR-1 and HAR-3) for the 2018-19 School Year (Please read the entire information below prior to ordering.)

It is time to order Cumulative Health Records (CHR-1) and Health Assessment Records (HAR-3) for delivery in spring 2018, and use in the 2018-19 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 distributes CHR-1 and HAR-3 forms to **one public school location in each Town**. Private schools will need to contact the local public school nursing supervisor regarding the health forms they need for the coming school year.

Public school representatives from each Town, please access the following link for ordering 2018-19 school health forms: [Ordering School Health Forms](#)

Directions:

1. Orders for CHRs and HARs will only be accepted via this Survey. No faxes or emails will be accepted!
2. All questions in this survey must be answered in order to successfully process your order.
3. Only **one** order per public school district will be accepted.
4. This system does not accept P.O. Box as an address. Be sure to provide the street address of the school/location where the forms will be delivered.
5. Deadline for submission of all orders is March 1, 2018. No exceptions!

2018 Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference Save the Date!

Date: May 1, 2018
Location: Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Registration: Information will be provided in the February 2018 School Nurse Bulletin

Note: Please e-mail Stephanie.knutson@ct.gov for consideration of topics you would like to have addressed at the 2018 Spring Conference. Deadline for suggestions is February 1, 2018.

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