**Immunization Information for Schools and Child Care Workers**

Students and child care workers are [required](http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/8677.pdf) to be vaccinated against certain diseases in Rhode Island. These requirements are based on recommendations from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](http://www2.aap.org/immunization/), and healthcare providers in Rhode Island.

More information about these diseases is available [online](http://www.health.ri.gov/diseases/#vaccinepreventable).

**Required immunizations for students**

**Requirements for students entering pre-kindergarten, child care, or day care centers**

* 4 doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine
* 1 dose of Flu vaccine each year \*apply to children in licensed DCYF facilities only
* 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine \*apply to children in licensed DCYF facilities only
* 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
* 3 doses of Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) vaccine
* 1 dose of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine
* 4 doses of Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (not routinely given to healthy children 5 years of age and older)
* 3 doses of Polio vaccine
* 1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine

**Requirements for students entering kindergarten**

A student entering kindergarten must have met the pre-kindergarten immunization requirements, plus:

* 1 dose of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine
* 1 dose of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine
* 1 dose of Polio vaccine
* 1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine

**Requirements for students entering 7th grade**

A student entering 7th grade must have met the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten immunization requirements, plus:

* 1 dose of HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine
* 1 dose of Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4) vaccine
* 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine

**Requirements for students entering 8th grade**

A student entering 8th grade must have met the 7th grade immunization requirements, plus:

* 2 doses of HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine

**Requirements for students entering 9th grade (2017-2018 school year)**

A student entering 9th grade must have met the 8th grade immunization requirements, plus:

* 3 doses of HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine
* \*Note: Per current ACIP recommendations, 2 doses of HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine (if series is started at age 14 or younger)

**Requirement for students entering 12th grade**

A student entering 12th grade must have met the 9th grade immunization requirements, plus:

* 1 dose of Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4) vaccine - booster dose

**Required immunizations for child care workers**

* 1 dose of Flu vaccine every year
* 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine
* 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine
* 2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine

**Exemptions**

Students and children in child care (day care) and pre-kindergarten facilities can be exempted from required immunizations for religious, medical, or temporary reasons. A medical exemption certificate must be signed by a medical provider.

* [Religious exemption](http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/exemption/ReligiousImmunizationExemptionCertificateForSchools.pdf)
* [Medical exemption](http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/exemption/MedicalImmunizationExemptionCertificateForSchools.pdf)
* [Temporary exemption](http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/exemption/TemporaryImmunizationExemptionCertificateForSchools.pdf)

Child care workers can be exempted from required immunizations for medical reasons. A medical exemption certificate must be signed by a medical provider.

* [Medical exemption (child care workers)](http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/exemption/MedicalImmunizationExemptionCertificateForChildcareWorkers.pdf)

**Other ways to meet the immunization requirements**

* Students and child care workers do not need to get the immunizations listed above if they have already received them. This can be demonstrated with an immunization record, a medical passport, or any other official record that shows the month, day, and year of the vaccinations.
* Students and child care workers do not need to get the immunizations listed above if they cannot receive them for medical reasons. A healthcare provider can provide paperwork stating that someone cannot be vaccinated against a particular disease for medical reasons.
* Child care workers do not need to get varicella (chickenpox) vaccine if they had varicella (chickenpox or shingles) in the past. This can be demonstrated with a signed statement from a licensed healthcare provider acting within his/her scope of practice (physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner).
* If a child care worker is already immune to a disease, vaccination against that disease is not required. Immunity must be demonstrated with laboratory evidence (also called a titer).
* Child care workers born before 1957 are not required to get MMR vaccine.
* Child care workers born before 1980 are not required to get varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

**HPV vaccination**

A 3-dose [HPV](http://www.health.ri.gov/diseases/hpv/) immunization requirement is being phased in. For fall 2015, 1 dose will be required for 7th graders. For fall 2016, one dose will be required for 7th graders and 2 doses will be required for 8th graders. For fall 2017, 1 dose will be required for 7th graders, 2 doses will be required for 8th graders, and 3 doses will be required for 9th graders.

Note: No student should be excluded from school if he/she is not vaccinated against HPV.

Per current ACIP recommendations, adolescents 9 - 14 years of age need 2 doses of HPV vaccine for series completion, and adolescents 15 - 26 years of age need 3 doses for series completion.

Impact on schools: School nurses will only have to assess for 2 doses of vaccine rather than 3 doses, for 9th graders who start the series before age 15.