

NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR JULY 2010

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) has issued new immunization rules and a new Official Certificate of Immunization that is required for entry into school effective July 1, 2010.

*The Green immunization record will no longer be accepted, but the new official TDOH certificate of immunization will be the only accepted form. This form is available from the private healthcare provider or the health department. Students entering pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 7th grade (with the new vaccine requirements) or as a new student must present this new form before entering school.

***Children entering pre-Kindergarten**

Four new additional immunizations are required-

Hepatitis B (HBV)

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib): age younger than 5 years only

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV); age younger than 5 years only

Hepatitis A (1 dose by 18 months of age)

***Children entering Kindergarten**

Two additional doses of existing vaccines are required-

Varicella (2 doses-30 days apart or history of disease): previously only one dose was required

Poliomyelitis (IPV or OPV): final doses on or after the 4th birthday is now required

Hepatitis A (2 doses-6 months apart) will be required July 1, 2011

***Children entering 7th Grade**

Two new requirements-

Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster (Tdap)

Varicella (2 doses-30 days apart or history of disease)

For 7th graders already enrolled in Tennessee schools, only the proof of the two new requirements needs to be on the new immunization certificate. This new certificate will be stapled to the previous Green form.

***Physicals**

Children entering pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten are required to have a physical before entering school.

The blue physical form is to be completed by the healthcare provider in order for the school nurse to have additional medical information. This is not mandatory, but helpful. If a student attended the Wilson County pre-Kindergarten, they do not have to have another physical before starting Kindergarten.

ALL STUDENTS entering a Tennessee public school for the first time must have proof of a physical performed in the past year.

***Children with medical or religious exemptions**

Medical: Healthcare provider must indicate which specific vaccines are medically exempted on the new form. Other vaccines remain required.

Religious: Requires only a signed statement by the parent/guardian that vaccination conflicts with their religious tenets or practices.

The Wilson County Health Department set aside the following dates for Physicals or Immunizations:

Monday, July 26th School Physicals by appointment only

Tuesday, July 27th School Physicals by appointment only

Thursday, July 29th Immunizations by appointments only

Friday, July 30th Immunizations by appointments only

Immunizations will be given on physical days, but physicals will not be given on immunization days.

When students present at the school to register, please have the school nurse check their immunization records or allow the nurse to talk to the parent about the requirements. Many problems are avoided when the immunization records are reviewed immediately instead of after the child has already started school.