

School Health Requirements

(Physicals, Immunizations, Dental, Vision)

2009-2010

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Illinois law requires that all students entering an early childhood program, kindergarten, sixth or ninth grades, or transferring from out of state have a physical examination within one calendar year PRIOR to the date of entry. The examination must include a complete immunization record and medical history. Students transferring from another Illinois school must present copies of their current Illinois school health records.

Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code states: "If a child does not comply ...then the LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITY SHALL EXCLUDE THAT CHILD FROM SCHOOL until such time as the child presents proof of having had either the health examination or those required immunizations which are medically possible to receive immediately."

In the event of one diagnosed case of a communicable disease such as measles or polio, any student who is not protected by immunization shall be immediately excluded from school. This exclusion shall be in effect for 21 days following the last reported case or until the student can show proof of immunity.

IMMUNIZATIONS

DTP/DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis): 5 doses - a series of three plus two boosters (2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months, 4-6 years) The last booster must be given after the fourth birthday. An additional booster (Td) is required ten years after the last booster.

OPV/IPV (Polio): 4 doses – a series of two plus two boosters (2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, 4-6 years) The last booster must be given after the fourth birthday.

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella): 2 doses (12-15 months, 4-6 years)

Measles – Required unless physician documentation or laboratory evidence verifies that the student has had the disease. The student must have received two doses of live measles vaccine, the first dose after the first birthday and the booster dose at least one month later.

Mumps – Required unless laboratory evidence proves that the child has had the disease. The vaccine must have been given after the first birthday.

Rubella – Required unless laboratory evidence proves that the child has had the disease. The vaccine must have been given after the first birthday.

Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b): 4 doses (2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12-15 months) Given according to a variety of schedules, depending on the manufacturer, minimal dose required is one after 15 months of age.

Hepatitis B: 3 doses – a series of two plus one booster (birth, 1-2 months, 6-18 months)

Varicella (Chicken Pox) – The vaccine must have been given after the first birthday or must provide physician documentation or laboratory evidence verifying that the student has had the disease.

IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTIONS

Medical Exemptions

The law allows physicians to write a statement if he believes a vaccine would be harmful to the health of a child. These statements must be dated and signed by the medical doctor and renewed annually unless the physician writes that it is a life long condition. For children needing medical exemptions, the physician's statement must be submitted to the school by the parent prior to the first day of school.

Exemption for Reasons of Conscience

Exemptions for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs are allowable. To claim this exemption from immunizations for reason of conscience, the parent or legal guardian must submit a written request to obtain the Affidavit for Exemption from immunizations for Reasons of Conscience to the Department of State Health Services Immunization Branch. Affidavit forms are usually processed by DHS and mailed within 2 weeks from receipt of the request. Once this form is received by the parent or legal guardian, they must sign and have the form notarized and submit the **original** form to the school. Copies are void and will not be accepted. Since proof of immunization status is required before the first day of school, to claim this exemption, this form must be submitted prior to the first day of school. A new original copy of this form is required to be resubmitted every 2 years.

In the event of a disease outbreak, the Illinois Department of Health Services may mandate that students having exemptions from immunizations be kept out of school until the outbreak is over as determined by the Illinois Department of State of Health Services.

Comprehensive information about immunization requirements in the state of Illinois can be found at the following website: www.isbe.net.

A copy of the State of Illinois Child Health Examination form can be accessed at:
http://www.idph.state.il.us/pdf/cert_child_health05.pdf

DENTAL EXAMINATION

Effective *July 1, 2005* – Public Act 93-946 requires all Illinois children enrolling in kindergarten, second and six grade to have an oral health exam. Each child shall present proof of exam by a dentist prior to MAY 15th of the school year.

A copy of the State of Illinois Dental Examination form can be accessed at:
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof.pdf>

A copy of the State of Illinois Dental Examination Waiver form can be accessed at:
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf>

VISION EXAMINATION

Effective *January 1, 2008* – Public Act 95-671 requires all Illinois children enrolling in kindergarten in a public, private, or parochial school and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private or parochial school shall have an eye examination.

Each such child is to present proof of having been examined by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or a licensed optometrist within the previous year before October 15 of the school year. If the child fails to present proof by October 15, the school may hold the child's report card until either (a) the child presents proof of a completed eye examination or (b) the child presents proof that any eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

This requirement may be waived for children who show an undue burden or a lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches who provides eye examinations or to a licensed otometrist. Moreover, parents or legal guardians who object to eye examinations on religious grounds shall not be required to submit their children to the examination if such parents or legal guardians present to the appropriate local school authority a signed statement of objection, detailing the grounds for the objection.

A copy of the State of Illinois Eye Examination Report can be accessed at:
http://www.isbe.net/pdf/eye_exam_form_IOA.pdf

A copy of the Eye Examination Waiver can be accessed at:
http://www.isbe.net/pdf/eye_exam_waiver.pdf