

ACPS HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

- **Physical examination (Grades K-5)**, including a hearing and vision screening, on the state physical form (*MCH-213 G*) form within one year of original entry date into elementary school (Grades K-5 only). Parents/guardians must complete Part I – Health Information Form. Copies of the state physical form can be downloaded from the Virginia Department of Health website. The physical examination should be performed by a licensed health care provider licensed in the United States. Any transfer students (Grades K-5) entering an ACPS elementary school must provide either one or the other of the following: (1) records establishing that a physical examination was completed less than 12 months prior to enrolling in another school, or (2) a report of a physical examination dated within the last 12 months. This documentation does not have to be on the Virginia State form.
- **Physical examination (PreK)**: Students entering ACPS preschool programs must also present a school entry physical examination dated within one year of the entry date into preschool. A new school entry physical examination dated within one year of entry into Kindergarten will be required for Kindergarten registration.
- **Tuberculosis Screening**: Regardless of country of birth, all students entering Alexandria City Public Schools must have appropriate tuberculosis (TB) screening completed and documented by a health care provider, i.e., a school nurse, private doctor, or at the health department. This risk assessment or screening test must be done less than one year prior to the date of entry.

Acceptable screening methods used to document a child’s TB status for school entry include the following:

1. Written documentation of a negative Tuberculosis Risk Assessment, **or**
2. Written documentation from one of the following tests performed in the United States:
  - Interferon gamma release assay (an IGRA blood test, such as the QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube Test or the T-SPOT TB Test), **or**
  - Intradermal Mantoux (“PPD”) Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), which must be read by a nurse or doctor 48-72 hours after placement.

Repetitive TB screening and/or testing of students for matriculation into school due to relocation within the United States or because of extensive absences from school is not generally recommended because such testing usually yields very few positive results or useful medical information. However, in the case of a student absence of more than 15 consecutive days, but less than 90 days, the school nurse should do a TB Risk Assessment for reenrollment of the student, if the child’s initial TB screening is on file at the school.

- 43 ● **Immunization records, including:**
- 44 ○ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Dtap, DPT, or Tdap)** – a minimum of
- 45 four doses, with one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 46 DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically
- 47 exempt from the pertussis-containing vaccine (Dtap or DTP). Adult Td is
- 48 required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum
- 49 requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. Note: Children over the age of 7 years
- 50 will need only 3 doses of a tetanus-containing vaccine if the 1<sup>st</sup> dose was
- 51 administered at 12 months of age or older (Tdap may be given as one of the 3
- 52 doses).
- 53 ▪ Effective, July 1, 2019, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for
- 54 new students entering 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students not meeting this
- 55 requirement will not be allowed to enroll.
- 56
- 57 ○ **Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine** - This vaccine is required
- 58 only for children up to 60 months of age (preschoolers). Children between the
- 59 ages of 15 and 60 months (5 years) are only required to have one dose of
- 60 vaccine.
- 61
- 62 ○ **Hepatitis B** – All children must have 3 doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine. There
- 63 must be at least 1 month spacing between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses and 4 months
- 64 spacing between the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose must be given after the age
- 65 of 6 months. (There is a 2-dose vaccine (Recombivax HB) approved for
- 66 adolescents ages 11-15 only. The doses for this vaccine must be separated by a
- 67 minimum of 4 months.)
- 68
- 69 ○ **Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)** – Effective October 1, 2008, a
- 70 complete series of 3 doses of HPV vaccine is required for females. The first
- 71 dose shall be administered before the child enters 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents may elect
- 72 for their child not to receive the HPV vaccine.
- 73
- 74 ○ **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** – All children entering school (K-12)
- 75 must have at least 2 doses of the measles and mumps vaccines and one dose of
- 76 the rubella vaccine, with the first dose given on, or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Most
- 77 children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the
- 78 combination MMR vaccine. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of MMR vaccine must be
- 79 separated by at least 4 weeks (28 days). Preschool children should have at least
- 80 one dose of the MMR vaccine.
- 81
- 82 ○ **Polio (OPV or IPV)** – All children must have at least 4 doses of polio vaccine,
- 83 with one dose given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Note: A 4<sup>th</sup> dose is not necessary
- 84 if the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose was administered at 4 years of age or older and at least 6 months
- 85 following the previous dose.
- 86
- 87 ○ **Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine** – All susceptible children born on or after
- 88 January 1, 1997, shall be required to have a dose of varicella vaccine not earlier

89 than 12 months of age and a second dose must be administered prior to entering  
90 Kindergarten. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of varicella vaccine must be separated by at  
91 least 3 months for children under age 13. Children who have had the  
92 Chickenpox previously may show evidence of immunity to varicella in lieu of  
93 the vaccine (see Appendix A).  
94

95 Virginia School and Daycare Minimum Immunization Requirements can be downloaded  
96 from the Virginia Department of Health website. .  
97

98 **Evidence of Immunization**  
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100 Evidence acceptable for proof of required immunizations must include the month, day, and  
101 year each dosage was administered on forms developed by, or approved by, the State  
102 Department of Health. All students for whom dates cannot be provided (month, day, and  
103 year) must be referred to the local health department or their private physicians to update  
104 their records before entering school.  
105

106 **Conditional Enrollment**  
107

108 A student may be enrolled for a period of 90 school days contingent upon the student  
109 having received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines and the student  
110 possessing a plan, from a licensed healthcare provider or local health department, for  
111 completing his or her immunization requirements within the ensuing 90 school days.  
112

113 **Exemptions**  
114

- 115 1. A religious exemption may be granted when the parent or guardian has an objection  
116 on the grounds that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his or  
117 her religious tenets or practices and provides the principal with a written statement  
118 of such objection, unless an emergency or a disease epidemic has been declared by  
119 the State Board of Health. The parent must provide the school with a notarized copy  
120 of the Commonwealth of Virginia Certificate of Religious Exemption, which can  
121 be obtained from the Virginia Department of Health website. This religious  
122 exemption certificate will remain filed in the student’s Cumulative Health Record  
123 and recorded in the electronic student information database.  
124
- 125 2. A medical exemption may be granted when the parent or guardian presents a  
126 statement from a licensed healthcare provider that states that the physical condition  
127 of the child is such that the administration of one or more of the required  
128 immunizing agents would be detrimental to the health of the child. This medical  
129 exemption certificate will remain filed in the student’s Cumulative Health Record  
130 and recorded in the electronic student information database.  
131

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134

135 **Military Families**

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137 In accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military  
138 Children (Va. Code § 22.1-360). children of military families, without documentation of  
139 immunizations, are immediately enrolled and have up to 30 days from the date of  
140 enrollment to obtain any immunization(s) required by the receiving state. The compact  
141 does not waive the physical examination requirement for these children.

142

143 **Students Who Are Experiencing Homelessness**

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145 If a student is experiencing homelessness (homeless child or youth as defined in Va. Code  
146 § 22.1-3) and

147 a. does not have documentary proof of necessary immunizations or has incomplete  
148 immunizations and

149 b. is not exempted from immunization,  
150 the school division will immediately admit such student and will immediately refer the  
151 student to the local school division Homeless Liaison in the Department of Student  
152 Services, who will assist in obtaining the documentary proof of, or completion of,  
153 immunizations. More information about the Homeless Education Liaison Program (HELP)  
154 is available on the ACPS website.

155

156 **Immunization Requirements for Adult Students**

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158 All ACPS students over the age of 18 enrolling in ACPS schools or adult education  
159 programs must provide documentation of completion of the Advisory Committee for  
160 Immunization Practices recommendations for adult immunizations for Tdap/Td, MMR,  
161 and Varicella series.

162

163 Revised: April 27, 2015

164 Revised: June 20, 2019

165 Amended: October 5, 2023

166

167 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-271.2, 22.1-271.4, 32.1-46,  
168 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

169

170 12 VAC 5-110-10

171

172	Cross Refs:	JEC	School Admission
173		JECA	Admission of Homeless Children
174		JHCB	Student Immunizations
175		JO	Student Records
176		LBD	Home Instruction

## Appendix A

### ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE OF IMMUNITY TO VARICELLA VIRUS FOR THE PURPOSES OF MEETING VIRGINIA SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Evidence of immunity to varicella includes any of the following:

1. Documentation of 1 dose of varicella vaccine given at 12 months of age or older for children born on or after January 1, 1997. Effective March 3, 2010, documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine is required prior to kindergarten entry.
2. Laboratory evidence of immunity or confirmation of varicella disease.
3. Diagnosis, or verification of a history, of varicella disease by a health-care provider.\* (Parental reports are no longer acceptable without further evaluation. See below.)

Health care providers' documentation of a history of varicella

1. Complete Part II (Certification of Immunization), Section 1 the MCH form 213-G with the date of disease or serological confirmation, and sign the form.  
OR
2. Provide comparable information on a prescription form with the provider's name printed on it, or on the provider's letterhead stationery. Either of these must be signed by the provider.
3. School personnel should accept either of these documents, if signed and dated. If a prescription form or note is presented, school personnel should attach this to the child's school health record.

Parental report of varicella disease

A school nurse may accept a parental report of varicella disease only if all of the following are reported by the parent in describing the child's illness.

- Acute onset of the illness.
- Maculopapulovesicular rash without other apparent cause.
- Generalized and pruritic rash with most lesions on the trunk.
- The lesions crusted over.

If these four criteria are met, the school nurse may document the history of varicella disease in Part II, Section 1, of the MCH 213-G form and initial the entry.

If all four criteria listed are not met, or the nurse is uncertain if they have been met, the parent should be referred to their private provider for a review of the history, vaccination, or serological testing.

\* "Health care provider" includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and registered nurses.

Appendix B

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

The administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the above named Student's/my religious tenets or practices. I understand, that in the occurrence of an outbreak, potential epidemic or epidemic of a vaccine-preventable disease in my/my child's school, the State Health Commissioner may order my/my child's exclusion from school, for my/my child's own protection, until the danger has passed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian/student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm that this affidavit was signed in my presence on

This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public Seal