



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Procedures
Title	Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
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PROCEDURE

Immunizations

1. Immunizations significantly reduce occurrences of communicable disease. State law requires that all students present proof of compliance with state immunization requirements.
2. The school principal may not knowingly admit a student, or retain a student who does not meet the immunization requirements.
3. A student who does not have the immunization doses required for continued school attendance and has not been exempted from immunization for medical reasons, philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction, or religious beliefs should be treated the same as any other student who does not meet the requirements for admission to school.
4. Once the student meets the immunization or exemption requirements, he or she may return to school.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

Children in **ALL** grades (K-12) need the following immunizations for attendance:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis* (1 dose on or after 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella**
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

Grades 7-12 **ADDITIONAL** immunization requirements for attendance:

- 2 doses meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
 - First dose is given 11-15 years of age, a second dose is required at age 16 or entry into 12th grade.

- If the dose was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required.
- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis(T dap)

*Usually given as DtaP or DTP or DT or Td

**Usually given as MMR

Communicable Diseases

1. When a student is suspected of having a communicable disease, the following steps will be taken:
 - Student is sent to the medical room for further evaluation.
 - Isolate the student as appropriate.
 - Notify the principal as appropriate.
 - Notify the parents or guardians.
 - Exclude the student as appropriate and refer to a health care provider for diagnosis and treatment.
 - Determine when return to school is appropriate, e.g., a communicable disease is ruled out by the physician, the period of communicability has passed, the student is receiving appropriate treatment, the doctor or health department verifies that the student is no longer infectious, or a team approach has decided that the student may return, etc.

***ZIKA VIRUS**

Zika virus is transmitted primarily through the bite of infected Aedes species mosquitoes. Zika virus is not transmitted directly from one person to another through casual contact. There is no evidence that risk for transmission on school properties will be higher than in other areas of the local community. If suspected or confirmed Zika virus infection occurs in a student or staff member, schools should continue to prioritize strategies to prevent mosquito bites on school grounds, to prevent further transmission through infected mosquitoes. Because Zika virus is not transmitted from person to person by casual contact, it is not necessary to issue a schoolwide notification, and students or staff members with travel-related Zika virus exposure or confirmed Zika virus infection do not need to be removed from school. Isolation of persons with Zika virus disease or quarantine of exposed persons is neither recommended nor appropriate. Schools should maintain privacy and nondiscrimination protections for all students and employees. In the case of local Zika virus transmission, it is not necessary to cancel school-related activities. School nurses will develop guidance for all staff kindergarten through grade 12 (K–12) and school administrators for public health actions pertaining to Zika virus infection. This guidance is intended to address concerns about the risk for Zika virus infection in K–12.

PREVENTATIVE ACTION

Schools are to implement mosquito control measures on school grounds whenever possible.

Common sources on school grounds that may cause mosquito invasion include:

- buckets
- trash cans
- planters
- tires
- Identifying and removing sources of standing water that can serve as mosquito breeding sites
- tall grasses
- playground equipment
- Spaces beneath temporary modular structures

Adjustments can be made to ensure these do not become mosquito breeding areas:

- regular routine maintenance cleaning
- sweeping away pools of water
- keep all grassy areas mowed
- Place new screens or replacing damaged screens in windows and doors.
- Insecticide spraying.
- remove sources of standing water
- When possible, students and staff members participating in outdoor activities in areas with mosquito activity should be advised to wear long pants and sleeves
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–registered insect repellents, all of which are considered safe for school-aged children.