Preschool and School Immunization Requirements

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases* (R23-1-IMM), the minimum number of doses of required immunizations for children entering pre-kindergarten are:

Requirements for All Children Entering Childcare and Pre-school

- 4 doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine
- 1 dose of flu vaccine each year
- 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 All Children Entering Kindergarten

A child who is 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 All Children Entering 7th Grade

A child entering 7th grade must have met 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
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Requirements for children entering 8th grade

A child entering 8th grade must have met pre-kindergarten and kindergarten immunization requirements, plus:

- 2 doses of HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine

Requirement for children entering 12th grade

A child who is entering 12th grade must have met the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and 7th grade immunization requirements, plus:

- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine - booster dose

Exemptions

- Students and children in day care, child care, and pre-kindergarten facilities can be exempted from required immunizations for either religious or medical reasons. Religious exemption forms can be obtained from school nurses or by parents here. A medical exemption form must be provided by and signed by a doctor.

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.

HPV vaccination

A 3-dose 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: Per recent 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.

For more information, visit the Rhode Island Dept. of Health at http://www.health.ri.gov/immunization/for/schools