



## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

March 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Each year the South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the South Carolina Immunization Requirements for Childcare and School. This communication provides the school and childcare entry requirements for immunizations for the 2025-2026 school year. Included are general guidance and specific requirements for childcare and school attendance.

Childcare and school immunization requirements are minimum requirements. Several other vaccines are recommended to protect all children against diseases. Although they may not be required for childcare or school entry, DPH recommends all age-appropriate vaccines for children.

### **Changes for the 2025 – 2026 School Year:**

7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade: one (1) dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

11<sup>th</sup> grade: two (2) doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.

5<sup>th</sup> grade: two (2) doses of hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months.

The current Immunization Certificate is DPH form 4024. Children with valid DHEC 2740 certificates do not need an updated DPH 4024 certificate if the DHEC 2740 was (1) issued on or before June 30, 2022, and (2) no further immunizations are needed through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Doses documented on the SC Certificate of Immunization must be valid according to accepted practice standards. DPH supports the provision of all recommended vaccines in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and CDC General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization.

We appreciate your continuing efforts to protect South Carolina children from vaccine-preventable diseases. Any questions may be directed to DPH's Immunization Division at 800-277-4687 or [immunize@dph.sc.gov](mailto:immunize@dph.sc.gov).

Sincerely,

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Director  
Immunizations Operations Section

## South Carolina Immunization Requirements for School 2025-2026

The following minimum immunization requirements are necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades 5K-12:

| Vaccine                                  | Grade   | Grade Level Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis</b> | 5K – 12 | Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. Refer to the currently published ACIP Catch Up Schedule for guidance on recommendations for students who are behind. For children 7 years of age and older following a catch-up schedule, three (3) doses may be acceptable. |
| <b>Tdap Booster</b>                      | 7 – 12  | One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine. This dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis. The vaccine must be given on or after the child's 10 <sup>th</sup> birthday.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Polio</b>                             | 5K – 12 | Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Measles, Mumps and Rubella</b>        | 5K – 12 | Two (2) doses of MMR vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least four (4) weeks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Hepatitis A</b>                       | 5K – 5  | Two (2) doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least six (6) months.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Hepatitis B</b>                       | 5K – 12 | Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine, with the third dose received $\geq 24$ weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Varicella</b>                         | 5K – 11 | Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least four (4) weeks or a positive history of the disease.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                          | 12      | One (1) dose of varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

**Please note:**

- For students that are 19 years of age and older follow the adult immunization schedule for compliance.
- Any references to dose intervals in the above chart are highlights from ACIP guidance and should not be substituted for the detailed guidance outlined in ACIP's Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule
- Children enrolled in 4K programs and younger must meet Childcare Requirements, even if attendance is in a school setting.
- Children enrolled in 5K through Grade 12 must meet School Requirements.

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, "no superintendent of an institution of learning, no school board or principal of a school...may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.... Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school, or daycare facility to which the child or person has been admitted."

## South Carolina Immunization Requirements for Childcare 2025-2026

The following minimum requirements are necessary for childcare. These requirements will be effective as of July 1, 2025. This includes preschool attendance for 4K programs and younger. A SC Certificate of Immunization with an expiration date is acceptable to allow for age-appropriate completion of vaccination series. No child can attend childcare or preschool for more than 30 days past the expiration date of the certificate.

| By This Age:                      | Minimum Number of Required Doses: |                     |                      |                    |       |       |       |                      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 3 months <sup>1</sup>             | 2 Hep B                           | 1 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 1 Hib <sup>3</sup>   | 1 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 1 IPV |       |       |                      |
| 5 months                          | 2 Hep B                           | 2 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 2 Hib <sup>3</sup>   | 2 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 2 IPV |       |       |                      |
| 7 months                          | 2 Hep B                           | 3 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 2-3 Hib <sup>3</sup> | 3 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 2 IPV |       |       |                      |
| 13 months                         | 2 Hep B                           | 3 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 2-3 Hib <sup>3</sup> | 3 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 2 IPV |       |       |                      |
| 16 months                         | 2 Hep B                           | 3 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 3 Hib <sup>3</sup>   | 4 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 2 IPV | 1 MMR | 1 VAR |                      |
| 19 months                         | 3 Hep B                           | 4 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 3-4 Hib <sup>3</sup> | 4 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 3 IPV | 1 MMR | 1 VAR | 1 Hep A <sup>5</sup> |
| 2 years                           | 3 Hep B                           | 4 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 3-4 Hib <sup>3</sup> | 4 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 3 IPV | 1 MMR | 1 VAR | 2 Hep A <sup>5</sup> |
| 4 years<br>(childcare and/or 4-K) | 3 Hep B                           | 4 DTaP <sup>2</sup> | 3-4 Hib <sup>3</sup> | 4 PCV <sup>4</sup> | 3 IPV | 1 MMR | 1 VAR | 2 Hep A <sup>5</sup> |

**Please note:** Children enrolled in grade 5K or greater and enrolled in a childcare facility (e.g., after-school and/or summer program) must meet school immunization requirements and have a valid SC Certificate of Immunization on file at the childcare and school facility.

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, "...no owner or operator of a public or private childcare facility as defined in Section 63-13-20 may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school, or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted."

<sup>1</sup> Minimum immunization requirement for childcare entry for all infants under 3 months of age.

<sup>2</sup> Any combination of DTP, DT, or DTaP vaccine.

<sup>3</sup> **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) 3 Dose Series** (*PedvaxHIB*) – One dose by 3 months; second dose by 5 months and third dose by 16 months of age; OR, **4 Dose Series** (*ActHIB, Hiberix, Vaxelis, or Pentacel*) – One dose by 3 months; second dose by 5 months; third dose by 7 months and fourth dose by 16 months of age (*ActHIB, Hiberix, Vaxelis*); *Pentacel* fourth dose by 19 months of age. For children 15 – 59 months of age who have not yet completed an age-appropriate Hib vaccination series, one (1) dose of Hib vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

<sup>4</sup> **Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)** – For children aged 24 – 59 months who have not yet completed any age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination, one (1) dose of PCV on or after the 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday is required. PCV is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

<sup>5</sup> **Hepatitis A (Hep A)** – One dose must be administered no later than 18 months of age.