



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

Immunization Policy

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of School Health, all Friends' Central students must be properly immunized and must provide verification of immunizations. Children who are not immunized are at risk themselves and pose a risk to members of our community who are immunocompromised.

The following immunizations are required by 28 PA.CODE CH 23.81:

- Four doses of tetanus (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday), usually given as DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td.
- Four doses diphtheria (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday), usually given as DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td.
- Three doses of polio vaccine – oral (OPV) or injectable (IPV).
- Two doses of measles and mumps and one of rubella (MMR) vaccine – one after 12 months of age and second doses of measles, mumps vaccine (preferably given as MMR).
- Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine – the first two doses given one month apart, and the third dose six months after the first dose.
- Two doses of varicella vaccine (chicken pox) or history of disease.

For students entering Grade 7

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization).
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV).

For students entering Grade 12

- One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the 12th grade dose.

Exemptions

The Pennsylvania Department of School Health accepts some exemptions from the law. These include a medical exemption signed by a physician which states that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the student, and a religious or philosophical objection to immunizations which parents/guardians may indicate on the certificate of immunization with their signature.

Friends' Central School nurses monitor the immunization status of each student, and parents seeking exemptions will be asked to complete additional paperwork and provide required documentation. In addition to maintaining detailed immunization records, Friends' Central nurses complete and submit a state mandated School Immunization Law Report annually.

It is important for families to understand that students with exemptions may be excluded from school at the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, should an outbreak of a disease for which they are not immunized occur.