Immunization Requirements

In accordance with the Texas Department of Health immunization schedule, recommendations and adopted by the Texas Board of Health and published in the Texas Register annually, a child or student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a child care facility or public or private elementary or secondary school, or institution of higher education. Unless the student meets exemption or provisional enrollment criteria, all immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance

TDSHS requires students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to have the following additional vaccines, according to the immunization schedules set forth in department regulations: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, varicella, and meningococcal (MCV4).

Under Health and Safety Code Chapter 81, Subchapter E, additional vaccinations may be required by TDSHS and/or the local health authority in specific situations under the mechanism of a control order containing control measures.

Immunization Awareness Program

Texas Leadership Charter Academy shall post prominently on its Web site:

1. A list, in English and Spanish, of:
   a. The immunizations required by TDSHS for admission to public school;
   b. Any immunizations or vaccines recommended for public school students by TDSHS. The list must include the influenza vaccine, unless TDSHS requires the influenza vaccine for admission to public school; and
   c. Health clinics in the School's geographic boundaries that offer the influenza vaccine, to the extent those clinics are known to the School; and
2. A link to the TDSHS Internet Web site where a person may obtain information relating to the procedures for claiming an exemption from the immunization requirements. The link must be presented in the same manner as the information provided under paragraph 1.

Applicability

The vaccine requirements apply to all students entering, attending, enrolling in, and/or transferring to the School.

Exceptions

Immunization is not required for admission to the School:

If the student submits to the admitting official:

Medical Reasons
For children claiming medical exemptions, a written statement by the physician (MD or DO), who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States and who has examined the student, must be submitted to the school.

The written statement must state that, in the physician's opinion, the immunization required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

or

Reasons of Conscience
An affidavit signed by the student or, if a minor, the student's parent or guardian stating that the student declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The affidavit will be valid for a two-year period.

A student who has not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of state health services.

or

Military Duty
If the student can prove that he or she is a member of the armed forces of the United States and is on active duty.

Provisional Enrollment
A student may be provisionally admitted or enrolled if the student meets the following criteria:

Catch-Up Schedule
The student must have an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each age-appropriate vaccine specified in the regulations.
To remain enrolled, the student must continue to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as medically feasible. The student must complete the required subsequent

doses in each vaccination series on schedule and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the School.

Homeless Students
A student who is homeless, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, shall be admitted temporarily for 30 days if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. The school shall promptly refer the student to appropriate public health programs to obtain the required vaccinations.

Transfer Students
A student can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if he or she transfers from one Texas school to another, and is awaiting the transfer of the immunization record.

Military Dependents
A military dependent can be enrolled provisionally for no more than 30 days if the student transfers from one school to another and is awaiting the transfer of the immunization record.

The collection and exchange of information pertaining to immunizations shall be subject to confidentiality provisions prescribed by federal law.

Review of Status (Provisional Enrollment Only)
The School shall review the immunization status, of a provisionally enrolled student, every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period a student does not have the appropriate immunizations, on file at school, the student will be suspended from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

a. The school nurse, principal, or a designee of the principal's choosing may give a 10 day grace period where the parent or legal guardian may bring in an updated shot record, after this 10 day grace period the student will be suspended from school attendance until an appropriate shot record is provided to the school.

<u>Evidence of Immunization</u>
A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination before entry, attendance, or transfer to the School.

Vaccines administered after September 1, 1991, shall include the month, day, and year each vaccine was administered. The following documentation is acceptable:

1. Documentation of vaccines administered that includes the signature or stamp of the physician or his or her designee, or public health personnel;
2. An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority, such as a registry; or
3. A record received from school officials including a record from another state.

Serologic confirmations of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella are acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella illnesses must consist of a valid laboratory report that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection. A written statement from physician attesting to a child's positive history of immunity is acceptable in lieu of a vaccine record for that disease.

Verification of Immunization Record
The school nurse shall verify that a student's immunizations records meet state requirements, however, if a campus does not have a nurse on staff the principal, or a designee of their choosing, will be responsible for ensuring immunization records are received and that they meet state requirements, before the student starts school.

Immunization Records
The School shall keep an individual immunization record during the period of attendance for each student admitted. The records shall be sufficient for a valid audit to be completed. The records shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times by TEA, local health departments, or the TDSHS.

Transfer of Records
The School shall cooperate in transferring students' immunization records to other schools. Specific approval from students, parents, or guardians is not required before transferring those records.

Annual Report
The School shall submit annual reports of the immunization status of students, in a format prescribed by and at the time and in the manner indicated by TDSHS, to monitor compliance with immunization requirements.

Consent to Immunization
In addition to persons authorized to consent to immunization under Family Code Chapters 151 (parents) and 153 (conservators), the following persons may consent to the immunization of a child:

1. A guardian of the child; and

2. A person authorized under the law of another state or a court order to consent for the child.

The School may give consent to the immunization if:

1. The persons listed above are not available; and
2. The School has written authorization to consent from a person listed above.

The School may not consent for the child if it has actual knowledge that a person listed above has:

1. Expressly refused to give consent to the immunization;
2. Been told not to consent for the child; or
3. Withdrawn a prior written authorization for the School to consent.

Duty to Provide Information
If the School consents to immunization of a child, it shall provide the health-care provider with sufficient and accurate health history and other information necessary for the health-care provider to determine adequately the risks and benefits inherent in the proposed immunization and to determine whether immunization is advisable.

Form of Consent
Consent to immunization must be in writing, signed by the person giving consent, and given to the doctor, hospital, or other medical facility that administers the treatment.

The consent must include:

1. The name of the child;
2. the name of one or both parents, if known, and the name of any managing conservator or guardian of the child; the name of the person giving consent and the person's relationship to the child;
3. a statement of the nature of the medical treatment to be given; and
4. the date the treatment is to begin.

The School has the responsibility to ensure that the consent, if given, is an informed consent. The School is not required to be present when the immunization is requested if a consent form has been given to the health-care provider.

Liability

The School is not liable for damages arising from an immunization administered to a child authorized under Family Code Subchapter B except for injuries resulting from the School's own acts of negligence.