

## LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS OPERATED BY SCHOOLS IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Immunization requirements and recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year are based on the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#) recommendations, including the recommended and minimum interval immunization schedules and the catch-up schedule if a child falls behind. To avoid missed opportunities, immunization providers may use a four-day grace period, in most instances, per age and interval between doses. In such cases, these doses may be counted as valid.

[K.A.R. 28-1-20](#) specifies the immunizations required for children attending childcare facilities and early childhood programs licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Vaccines continue to be a safe and effective tool for preventing serious infectious diseases. KDHE encourages anyone with questions to talk to their healthcare provider.

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP):** Five doses required. Doses should be given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). The fourth dose may be given as early as 12 months of age, if at least 6 months have elapsed since dose three. The fifth dose is not necessary if the fourth dose was administered at age 4 years or older.
- **Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib):** Three to four doses required for children less than 5 years of age. Brands of vaccine approved for a three-dose series should be given at 2 months, 4 months, and 12 to 15 months. Brands of vaccine approved for a four-dose series should be given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 12 to 15 months. Total doses needed for series completion is dependent on the type of vaccine administered and the age of the child when doses were given.
- **Hepatitis A (Hep A):** Two doses required. Doses should be given at 12 to 23 months with a minimum interval of 6 months between the first and second dose.
- **Hepatitis B (Hep B):** Three doses required. Doses should be given at birth, 1 to 2 months, and 6 to 18 months. Minimum age for the final dose is 24 weeks.
- **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR):** Two doses required. Doses should be given at 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). Minimum age is 12 months and interval between doses may be as short as 28 days.
- **Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV):** Four doses required for children less than 5 years of age. Doses should be given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 12 to 15 months. Total doses needed for series completion is dependent on the age of the child when doses were given.
- **Polio (IPV/tOPV):** Four doses required. Doses should be given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). Three doses are acceptable if third dose was given after 4 years of age **and** at least 6 months have elapsed since dose two.
- **Varicella (Chickenpox):** Two doses are required. Doses should be given at 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). The second dose may be administered as early as 3 months after the first dose; however, a dose administered after a four-week interval is considered valid. No doses are required when student has history of varicella disease documented by a licensed physician.

Legal alternatives to school vaccination requirements are found at [K.S.A. 72-6262](#). In addition to the immunizations required for children attending childcare facilities licensed by KDHE and early childhood programs operated by schools, the following vaccine is recommended:

- **Influenza:** Annual vaccination *recommended* for all ages  $\geq$  6 months of age. Number of doses is dependent on age and number of doses given in previous years.

Vaccination efforts by school and public health officials, immunization providers and parents are key to the success of protecting our children and communities from vaccine preventable disease. Thank you for your dedication.