5K–12 IMMUNIZATION INFO FOR PARENT

South Carolina School Immunization Requirements 2026–2027

Students enrolled in grades 5K to 12 in both public and private schools must be up to date on the following shots based on their grade level:

- **Hepatitis A**
- **Hepatitis B**
- **DTaP (tetanus, whooping cough)**
- **Polio**
- **Measles, mumps, rubella**
- **Varicella (chickenpox)**
- **Tdap (whooping cough booster required before seventh grade)**

Vaccines are important to protect students from diseases such as measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough, which can spread easily in schools.

Follow these steps to make sure your child is ready for school.

1. **Schedule** your child's well visit/physical early before school starts. Spring or summer break is a great time to get this done so you won't run into any delays once school begins.
2. **Ask** your child's healthcare provider what vaccines they recommend. Some vaccines are not required for school attendance but are highly recommended by physicians for all students.

   When every student receives an annual flu vaccine it protects schools from flu outbreaks. Adolescents also need the HPV vaccine to protect against cancers. Vaccines are also needed to protect against meningitis.
3. **Obtain** a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization every time your child has a shot.
4. **Give** a copy of the new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to your child's school.

Changes for the 2026–2027 School Year:

12th grade: two (2) doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.

6th 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.

You can also get your child's vaccines at county health departments. For an appointment, call 855-472-3432.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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