Darien Public Schools

Department of Health Services

IMMUNIZATIONS FAQs (rev. 7.2026)

Due to recent changes in Connecticut State laws and CDC recommendations regarding immunizations, many families have questions about the public health requirements for school attendance. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions to help clarify current guidelines. If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please contact your child's **School Nurse**

Where can I find a list of vaccines required by CT Law for my child to attend school?

Connecticut law mandates that all children be adequately immunized to attend and remain in school. A detailed list of required vaccines for the **CT School Immunization Requirements 2025-2026** is published by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education.

Have Connecticut's immunization requirements changed in response to the recent updates to the CDC's childhood vaccination recommendations?

With respect to the CDC's recent changes in vaccine recommendations, Connecticut's childhood immunization schedule and school requirements remain unchanged and continue to be based on long-standing, evidence-based recommendations consistent with state law and the established standard of care. Families should continue to work with their child's healthcare provider to ensure routine vaccinations remain up to date. For additional information, click **DPH Vaccine Guidance January 2026.**

What if my child was delayed with starting a vaccine schedule and is not fully vaccinated according to the guidelines?

In certain situations, children who are not fully vaccinated may be allowed to attend school under conditional status, as long as they are actively working to complete the required immunizations. Conditional status permits a student to attend school while following the **CDC immunization catch-up schedule** for any missing vaccines mandated by the state. This status must be reviewed and approved by the school nursing department before the student's first day of attendance. To remain eligible for conditional status, families must provide documentation of all vaccines already received, submit proof of future appointments, and ensure that the child stays in compliance with the catch-up schedule. If a student is on an alternative vaccination timeline due to medical reasons, the school requires written documentation from the child's primary healthcare provider explaining the medical necessity. The provider must also outline an alternative catch-up schedule, which must be submitted to the school health office for review and approval.

What documentation do I need to provide for my child to remain in school while on a catch-up schedule/conditional attendance?

Students who are attending school under conditional status must provide the school nurse with proper documentation to remain eligible. This includes proof of each vaccine administered as well as confirmation of the next scheduled appointment per the CDC catch-up immunization schedule. Failure to submit the required documentation in a timely manner may result in temporary exclusion from school until updated records are received and reviewed.

What if my child is unable to keep the scheduled vaccine appointment?

Delays in a child's catch-up vaccination schedule will only be approved if the reason is medical, specifically, due to an acute illness for which a licensed medical professional has determined that the vaccine should be temporarily postponed. In such cases, documentation from the healthcare provider is required. This documentation must include a medical explanation for the delay, the date of the follow-up appointment related to the illness, and the rescheduled date for the next vaccine dose. Schools follow the **CDC Advisory Committee (AICP) Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions** (ACIP) guidelines regarding vaccine contraindications and precautions. Any delay that is not medically documented or is not based on medical necessity will not be accepted and may result in temporary exclusion from school until the required immunizations are up to date.

What if I can't get an appointment at my child's doctor to receive the vaccine?

Vaccine supply and appointment availability can be affected by factors beyond your control. While many parents prefer to have their child vaccinated through their primary healthcare provider, delays due to a provider's lack of vaccine supply or limited appointment availability will not be accepted as a valid reason for delaying required immunizations. If you are unable to secure an appointment with your child's healthcare provider, you are encouraged to seek vaccination from alternative providers in the state, such as the **Norwalk Community Health Center**, **CVS Minute Clinic**, or **Walgreens**

What if my child had a Religious Exemption to vaccines?

Effective April 28, 2021, Connecticut no longer accepts any new religious exemptions for school immunization requirements. Students enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade who had a valid and completed Religious Exemption form on file with the school nurse as of April 27, 2021, may continue to maintain their religious exemption status. Additionally, students transferring from other schools within Connecticut who had a valid Religious Exemption form on file prior to April 27, 2021, will be allowed to continue their exemption. Students transferring from schools outside of Connecticut or from other countries after April 27, 2021 are not eligible for religious exemptions to immunizations under Connecticut law. For more detailed information, please refer to the **CSDE Guidance Regarding Public Act 21-6, "An Act Concerning Immunizations" and OEC Guidance Regarding Public Act 21-6.**

What if my child has a Medical Exemption?

Students with medical contraindications to certain vaccines may be eligible for a medical exemption if their healthcare provider determines it is appropriate. The exemption must follow the guidelines established by the **ACIP Guidelines for Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions** regarding vaccine contraindications and precautions. In Connecticut, licensed healthcare practitioners, including physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses, are required to document the specific vaccines exempted, the duration of the exemption, and any relevant contraindications or precautions for each vaccine on the **Student Medical Exemption Certificate for Required Immunizations.** Medical exemptions may be either temporary or permanent. If a temporary exemption expires and is not updated with a new provider-signed certificate, the student may be excluded from school until the exemption is renewed or the required vaccine dose is administered.

What happens if there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness?

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable illness in the community, or in some cases, even a single confirmed case, students who are not fully immunized or are under-immunized may be required to stay home from school for the duration of the outbreak. This exclusion helps protect the health and safety of all students and staff by limiting the spread of disease. For more detailed information about vaccination, risks, and responsibilities, please refer to the resource: **If You Choose Not To Vaccinate Your Child – Understanding the Risks and Responsibilities.**