2026 - 2027 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K - 12

This chart summarizes the vaccine requirements incorporated in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 25 Health Services, §§97.61-97.72. This document is not intended as a substitute for the TAC, which has other provisions and details. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is granted authority to set immunization requirements by the Texas Education Code, Chapter 38.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A student shall show acceptable evidence of vaccination prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to a public or private elementary or secondary school in Texas.

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="3">Vaccine Required (Attention to notes and footnotes)</th><th colspan="12">Minimum Number of Doses Required by Grade Level</th><th rowspan="3">Notes</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="7">Grades K - sixth</th><th>Grade seventh</th><th colspan="5">Grades eighth - 12th</th></tr>
<tr><th>K</th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th><th>5</th><th>6</th><th>7</th><th>8</th><th>9</th><th>10</th><th>11</th><th>12</th></tr>
<tr><td>Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP/DTP/DT)
Tetanus/Diphtheria/ Acellular Pertussis (Td/Tdap)</td><td colspan="7">Five doses or four doses</td><td>Three dose primary series and one booster dose of Tdap/Td within the last five years</td><td colspan="5">Three dose primary series and one booster dose of Tdap/Td within the last 10 years</td><td>For K – sixth grade: five doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine; one dose must have been received on or after the fourth birthday. However, four doses meet the requirement if the fourth dose was received on or after the fourth birthday.[1] For students age 7 years and older, three doses meet the requirement if one dose was received on or after the fourth birthday.[1]
For seventh grade: one dose of Tdap is required if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.*
For eighth – 12th grade: one dose of Tdap is required when 10 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.
**Td is acceptable in place of Tdap if a medical contraindication to pertussis exists.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Polio</td><td colspan="13">Four doses or three doses</td><td>For K – 12th grade: four doses of polio; one dose must be received on or after the fourth birthday.[1] However, three doses meet the requirement if the third dose was received on or after the fourth birthday.[1]
Polio vaccine is not required for persons 18 years of age or older.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Measles, Mumps, and Rubella[2] (MMR)</td><td colspan="13">Two doses</td><td>For K – 12th grade: two doses are required, with the first dose received on or after the first birthday.[1] Students vaccinated prior to 2009 with two doses of measles and one dose each of rubella and mumps satisfy this requirement.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hepatitis B[2]</td><td colspan="13">Three doses</td><td>For students age 11 – 15 years old: two doses meet the requirement if adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax®) was received. Dosage (10 mcg /1.0 mL) and type of vaccine (Recombivax®) must be clearly documented. If Recombivax® was not the vaccine received, a three-dose series is required.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Varicella[2, 3]</td><td colspan="13">Two doses</td><td>For K – 12th grade: two doses are required, with the first dose received on or after the first birthday.[1]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Meningococcal (MCV4)</td><td colspan="7"></td><td colspan="6">One dose</td><td>For seventh – 12th grade: one dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is required on or after the student's 11th birthday.[1]</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hepatitis A[2]</td><td colspan="13">Two doses</td><td>For K – 12th grade: two doses are required, with the first dose received on or after the first birthday.[1]</td></tr>
</table>

NOTE: Shaded area indicates that the vaccine is not required for the respective grade.

↓ Notes on the back page, please turn over. ↓

[1] Receipt of the dose up to (and including) four days before the birthday will satisfy the school entry immunization requirement.

[2] Serologic evidence of infection or serologic confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, or varicella is acceptable in place of vaccine.

[3] Previous illness may be documented with a written statement from a physician, school nurse, or the child's parent or guardian containing wording such as: "This is to verify that (name of student) had varicella disease (chickenpox) on or about (date) and does not need varicella vaccine." This written statement will be acceptable in place of any and all varicella vaccine doses required.

Information on exclusions from immunization requirements, provisional enrollment, and acceptable documentation of immunizations may be found in §97.62, §97.66, and §97.68 of the Texas Administrative Code, respectively and online at dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school.

Exemptions

Texas law allows (a) physicians to write medical exemption statements which clearly state a medical reason exists that the person cannot receive specific vaccines, and (b) parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The law does not allow parents/guardians to elect an exemption simply because of inconvenience (for example, a record is lost or incomplete and it is too much trouble to go to a physician or clinic to correct the problem).

Schools should maintain an up-to-date list of students with exemptions, so they may be excluded in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health. Instructions for downloading and requesting the official exemption affidavit that must be signed by parents/guardians choosing the exemption for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, can be found at dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school/exemptions.

For children claiming medical exemptions, a written statement by the physician must be submitted to the school. 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.

Provisional Enrollment

All immunizations must be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires all students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age-appropriate vaccine required by this rule. Students must not be overdue for the next dose in a series to be considered provisional. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school.

A school nurse or school administrator 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 has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance, and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

Additional guidelines exist for provisional enrollment of students transferring from one Texas public or private school to another, students who are dependents of active-duty military, students in foster care, and students who are homeless can be found in the TAC, Title 25 Health Services, Sections 97.66 and 97.69.

Documentation

Since many types of personal immunization records are in use, any document will be acceptable provided a physician or public health personnel validate it. Validation includes a signature, initials, or stamp. An immunization record generated from an electronic health record must include clinic contact information and the provider's signature/stamp, along with the vaccine name, and vaccination date (month, day, and year). An official record generated from a health authority is acceptable. An official record received from school officials including a record from another state is acceptable.

Texas Department of State Health Services • Immunization Section • MC-1946 • P. O. Box 149347 • Austin, TX 78714-9347 • 800-252-9152

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