HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: IMMUNIZATIONS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

ADOPTED: February 18, 2004

REVISED: November 9, 2026

203. IMMUNIZATIONS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Authority

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that directives from state and local health officials, established Board policy and administrative regulations, and Board-approved health and safety plans be followed by students under our authority, parents/guardians and district staff. [1][2]

Definitions

Certificate of Immunization – the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The certificate is filled out by the parent/guardian or health care provider and signed by the health care provider, public health official or school nurse or a designee. The certificate is given to the school as proof of full immunization. The school maintains the certificate as the official school immunization record or stores the details of the record electronically.[3]

Medical Certificate – the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health setting out the immunization plan for a student who is not fully immunized, filled out and signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, or by a public health official when the immunization is provided by the Department of Health or a local health department, and given to a school as proof that the student is scheduled to complete the required immunizations. [3]

Guidelines

Immunization

All students, including home schooled students, shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with state law and local regulations, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.[1][2][4]

A certificate of immunization shall be maintained as part of the health record for each student, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.[5]

A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/ guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds, or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization.[1][4][6][7]

A student who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools, unless exempted for medical or religious reasons, provisionally admitted by the Superintendent or designee after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and submitting proof of immunization or a medical certificate on or before the fifth school day of attendance, or in accordance with programs or guidance established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.[1][4][5][6][7]

Homeless students who have not been immunized or are unable to provide immunization records due to being homeless shall be admitted in accordance with the provisions of applicable law and regulations.[5][8][9]

Foster care students and students transferring into a school within the Commonwealth shall be admitted in accordance with law and regulations, and shall have thirty (30) days to provide proof of immunization, a medical certificate detailing the plan to complete a multiple dose vaccine series or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.[5]

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee and the building principal, or school nurse.[1]

Students attending childcare group settings located in a school, a pre-kindergarten program or an early intervention program operated by the district shall be immunized in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) standards.[6][10]

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Ensure that parents/guardians are informed prior to a student's admission to school, or a grade requiring additional immunizations, of the requirements for immunization, the requisite proof of immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reasons, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.[1][5][6][7][8][11].

2. Designate school personnel to review student medical certificates in accordance with law and regulations to ensure compliance with full immunization requirements.[3][5]

3. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct accordingly the

responsible district personnel.

4. Investigate and recommend to the Board district-sponsored programs of immunization as may be warranted to safeguard the health of the school community. Such program shall be subject to Board approval and may be conducted in cooperation with local health agencies.

The Superintendent or designee shall report immunization data electronically to the PA Department of Health by December 31 of each year. If the district is unable to complete the report electronically, the Superintendent or designee shall report the immunization data on the required form to the PA Department of Health by December 15.[12]

Communicable Diseases

The Board directs that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the PA Department of Health or guidance from state or local health officials for specified diseases and infectious conditions.[13][14][15][16]

Parents/Guardians shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of the school year, and that during the school year it may be necessary for a student to be excluded from school due to communicable disease. Parents/Guardians of a student needing to be excluded shall be notified and required to come to school or have a designated emergency contact come to school to transport the student home or to an appropriate place of care. Students may return to school when the criteria for readmission following a communicable disease, as set forth by law, regulations or guidance from state or local health officials, have been met.[13][14][15]

The Board directs school staff to request emergency contact information from parents/guardians of students at the beginning of each school year and request that it be updated as necessary during the school year.

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the PA Department of Health.[17][18][19]

The Superintendent or designee shall direct that health guidelines, Board-approved health and safety plans, and universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases be implemented in district schools.

Instruction regarding prevention of communicable and life-threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational programs for all levels, in accordance with state regulations.[20]

Parents/Guardians shall be informed of and be provided opportunities during school hours to review all curriculum materials used in instruction relative to communicable and life-threatening diseases, in accordance with Board policy.[20][21][22]

Health Records

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, regular and special examinations, and medical questionnaires.[16][23]

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent/guardian. The district may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[24][25][26][27][28][29]

Footnotes:

1. 24 P.S. 1303a
2. 28 PA Code 23.81 et seq
3. 28 PA Code 23.82
4. 22 PA Code 11.20
5. 28 PA Code 23.85
6. 28 PA Code 23.83
7. 28 PA Code 23.84
8. Pol. 200
9. Pol. 251
10. 28 PA Code 27.77
11. Pol. 201
12. 28 PA Code 23.86
13. 28 PA Code 27.71
14. 28 PA Code 27.72
15. Pol. 204
16. Pol. 209
17. 28 PA. Code 27.2
18. 28 PA Code. 27.1
19. 28 PA Code 27.23
20. 22. PA Code 4.29
21. 22 PA Code 4.4
22. Pol. 105.1
23. 24 P.S. 1402
24. 24 P.S. 1409
25. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
26. 34 CFR Part 99
27. Pol. 113.4
28. Pol. 216
29. Pol. 805

Pol. 105.2