

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

### **Health and Welfare**

#### **Physical Examinations, Immunization of Students, and Tuberculosis Screening Requirements**

This regulation supersedes Regulation 2101.10.

##### **I. PURPOSE**

To establish requirements and procedures for the physical examination and immunization information that must be provided for students entering Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

##### **II. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Before any student is admitted for the first time to preschool special education services (home resource or class-based), Family and Early Childhood Education program (FECEP), kindergarten, or elementary school, such student must have a comprehensive physical examination, of a scope as prescribed by the state health commissioner, by a qualified licensed physician or licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a licensed physician, who shall make a report of such examination and, at the end of such report, shall summarize abnormal physical findings, if any, and shall specifically state what, if any, conditions are found that would identify the student as disabled. If a student is enrolled in preschool or FECEP, the student is still required to present proof of a physical examination received no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of first entering kindergarten.

- A. A copy of such report on a School Entrance Physical Examination and Immunization Certification form must be presented to the school on the student's behalf.
- B. The report must indicate that the student has received the physical examination no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of first entering preschool special education services, FECEP, kindergarten, or elementary school.
- C. A transfer student, from another school, entering a Fairfax County elementary school must provide one of the following:
  - 1. Records establishing that a physical examination was completed no earlier than 12 months prior to enrolling in the other school. (Evidence of such an examination may be a copy of the report of the physical examination or a transcript notation or phone verification from the other school with records to follow.)

2. A report of a physical examination dated within the last 12 months of enrolling in a Fairfax County elementary school.

A transfer student entering a middle or high school shall not be required to submit a certificate of a physical examination. However, evidence of immunization and tuberculosis screening, if applicable, is required before the student may attend class.

- D. A student registering directly for alternative high school placement or adult education who is 18 years of age or older shall not be required to submit a certificate of a physical examination. However, evidence of immunization and tuberculosis screening, if applicable, is required before the student may attend class.
- E. Physical examination reports shall be placed in the student's record at the school and shall be made available for review by local or state health department employees or officials.
- F. A physical examination shall not be required of any student whose parent or guardian objects on religious grounds and who shows no visible evidence of sickness. The parent or guardian shall state in writing that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the student is in good health and free from any communicable or contagious disease.
- G. If a student is homeless, and for that reason cannot furnish documentation of a physical examination, the student should be immediately enrolled and immediately referred to the appropriate resource. The FCPS homeless liaison is available to help the student obtain the necessary physical examination.
- H. The Fairfax County Health Department provides referral information for physical examinations for indigent children, upon request.

### **III. IMMUNIZATIONS**

Before entering school (preschool special education services, FECEP, and grades K-12), every student shall furnish documentation (see section III.D.) certifying that the student has been immunized against communicable diseases as required by Section 32.1-46 of the Code of Virginia or has begun receiving the first series of all such vaccinations (see section III.A.). All dates of immunizations or dates of serological confirmation of immunity must include the month, day, and year.

**A. Immunizations Required for School Entrance \***

Immunization	Symbol	Description of Dose Required	Doses
Diphtheria Pertussis (whooping cough) Tetanus	DPT Td DT DTaP	For students under seven years of age, a minimum of three combination doses required at least four weeks apart, with one administered after the fourth birthday. Vaccine doses administered equal to or less than four days before the minimum interval or age should be counted as valid. If a student has received six doses before the fourth birthday, additional doses are contraindicated. DT is required for students medically exempt from pertussis vaccine. For students seven years of age or older, a minimum of three doses of adult Td are required for those who do not meet the minimum requirements, with at least four weeks between the first and second doses and 6 to 12 months between the second and third doses. For students 18 years of age and older, evidence of a Td booster within the last ten years is required for alternative high school or adult education.	Three doses with one after the fourth birthday or six doses
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis	Tdap	Effective July 1, 2006, a booster dose of Tdap is required for all students entering sixth grade, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.	One
Poliomyelitis	OPV IPV	For students under seven years of age, a minimum of three doses required at least four weeks apart, with one administered after the fourth birthday. Vaccine doses administered equal to or less than four days before the minimum interval or age should be counted as valid. A student who has received four doses before the fourth birthday is adequately immunized if all doses are either all IPV or OPV, and such student does not need a dose after the fourth birthday. For students seven years and older, a minimum of three doses with at least four weeks between the first and second doses and four weeks between the second and third doses. For students 18 years of age and older, OPV or IPV is not required.	Three doses with one after the fourth birthday or four doses (all IPV or all OPV)

Immunization	Symbol	Description of Dose Required	Doses
Measles (rubeola) German measles (rubella) Mumps	MMR	A minimum of two doses of measles vaccine, one of mumps vaccine, and one of rubella vaccine required. The first dose must be administered at age 12 months or older. The second dose of measles vaccine does not have to be administered until age four to six years (at entry into kindergarten) but can be administered at any time 28 days or more after the first dose. Students born before 1957 are exempt from receiving MMR immunization. Dated report of serological confirmation of the measles and rubella is acceptable. A physician's dated statement that mumps disease was diagnosed or serological confirmation is acceptable.	Two doses with the first dose on or after the first birthday
Hepatitis B	HBV	A complete series of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine is required for all students. There should be at least one month spacing between the first and second doses and four months spacing between the first and third doses.  FDA-Approved Exception: A two-dose schedule ONLY for adolescents 11-15 years of age AND ONLY when Merck brand (RECOMBIVAX HB) adult formulation hepatitis B vaccine is used. The two RECOMBIVAX HB adult doses must be separated by a minimum of four months. Vaccine doses administered equal to or less than four days before the minimum interval or age should be counted as valid. Dated report of serological confirmation of hepatitis B is acceptable.	Three  Two
Varicella zoster (chicken pox)		For children born on or after January 1, 1997, one dose of varicella vaccine is required, administered not earlier than the age of 12 months. Dated report of serological confirmation or statement from a physician of a reliable report of the disease is acceptable.	One dose on or after first birthday
Haemophilus influenzae type b	Hib	Minimum of one dose required ONLY for students up to 60 months of age.	One
Pneumococcal 7-valent conjugate	PVC	Two to four doses, dependent on age at first dose, of pneumococcal 7-valent conjugate vaccine (PVC) for students less than two years of age.	Two to four

\* Under Section 32.1-46 of the Code of Virginia and Fairfax County Health Department guidance.

**B. Conditional Enrollment**

A student may be enrolled for a period of 90 school days contingent upon the student having received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines and the student possessing a plan, from a physician or local health department, for completing his or her immunization requirements within the ensuing 90 school days or as otherwise indicated in the plan.

**C. Exemptions**

The following constitute authorized exemptions to the immunization requirements:

1. When the parent or guardian has an objection on the grounds that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his or her religious tenets or practices and provides the principal with a written statement of such objection on the Commonwealth of Virginia Certificate of Religious Exemption form, unless an emergency or a disease epidemic has been declared by the Virginia Department of Health. (If the parent maintains the need to continue the religious exemption during a documented school health emergency, the student shall be excluded from school for the protection of the student until the time that the health emergency has been concluded.)
2. When the parent or guardian presents a statement on a School Entrance Physical Examination and Immunization Certification form from a physician that states that the physical condition of the student is such that the administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to the health of the student.
3. When a student is homeless and does not have documentary proof of necessary immunizations or has incomplete immunizations and is not exempted from immunization, either medically or religiously. In such cases, the student should be immediately referred to the appropriate resource. The FCPS homeless liaison is available to help the student obtain the necessary proof or completion of immunizations.

**D. Evidence of Immunization**

Evidence that is acceptable for proof of required immunizations must include the month, day, and year each dosage was administered. All students for whom dates cannot be provided (month, day, year) must be referred to the Fairfax County Health Department or their private physicians to update their records before entering school.

1. For new students (students who have never enrolled in school) one of the following is required:
  - a. A School Entrance Physical Examination and Immunization Certification form required as documentation.

- b. Comparable documentation, including the month, day, and year each dosage was administered.
2. For transfer students (students previously enrolled in a United States, foreign, or military school), one of the following is required:
    - a. A School Entrance Physical Examination and Immunization Certification form, including the month, day, and year each dosage was administered.
    - b. A copy of a certificate of immunization from a health department or health organization, military card, health card, or overseas travel card, including the month, day, and year each dosage was administered.
    - c. An official school record indicating the month, day, and year each dosage was administered (phone verification of immunizations, including specific dates from another school with records to follow, may be used provisionally).
    - d. A signed statement from a physician or health department including the month, day, and year each dosage was administered (e.g., a School Entrance Physical Examination and Immunization Certification form or a comparable form used in another state).

#### **IV. TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING REQUIREMENTS**

For all students who have resided in a foreign country (with the exception of Canada, the countries of Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand) during the last five years for a consecutive period of five or more months, one of the following is required:

- A. Evidence of a negative tuberculin skin test (TST) and a negative symptom screen completed within 90 calendar days prior to registration, certified by a licensed physician or department of health.
- B. Evidence of a normal (negative) chest X-ray taken within 90 calendar days prior to registration.
- C. Documentation of a negative symptom screen and risk assessment from the health department or private physician for students who present written documentation of having completed prophylaxis treatment for tuberculosis.
- D. A student may be conditionally enrolled in FCPS if he or she presents a temporary medical waiver of a TST.
  1. A waiver must include the reason for the waiver, a statement that the student is asymptomatic, and the expiration date of the waiver (not to exceed 30 days).
  2. A waiver shall be granted for the following reasons only:
    - a. Student received a live virus vaccine immunization less than 30 days before TST was requested.

- b. TST is not readable (meaning that one of the lateral borders is not palpable and needs repeating). The repeat TST can be done immediately, unless a live virus vaccine was administered less than 30 days before. If the live virus vaccine was administered, the TST must be given at least 4 weeks after the date the vaccine was administered.
- 3. A student who is conditionally enrolled with a temporary waiver must complete the designated test within the period specified or he or she shall be excluded from school until the requirement is met.
- E. Persons returning from temporary (less than five months) trips outside the United States are not required to be screened for the purpose of reenrollment in FCPS.
- F. Homeless students in need of tuberculosis screening should be immediately referred to the FCPS homeless liaison, who will help the student obtain the necessary documentation.

Legal reference: Code of Virginia, Sections 22.1-270, 22.1-271.2, 32.1-46