

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE CODE F19P: STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS PROCEDURES

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Summary

Parents/guardians must provide the school with a record or certificate of immunizations issued by a licensed health care practitioner or health clinic as required by Vermont statute. **Per Vermont law, without the necessary documentation, students will not be able to enroll in school.** Statistical reports of student immunization status will be submitted to the state as required.

Required Immunizations by Grade Level

Unless students are on a catch-up immunization schedule¹ (and parents/guardians have submitted documentation of the catch-up plan from the student's primary care provider), the following immunizations are **required**² prior to enrollment:

PreK Students

- 4 doses DTaP vaccine (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis)
- 3 doses Polio vaccine
- 3 doses Hepatitis B vaccine^{3**}
- 1-4 doses Hib vaccine
- 1-4 doses PCV vaccine
- 1 dose MMR vaccine (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)
- 1 dose Varicella vaccine (Chickenpox) or documented history of disease^{4**}

K-12 Students

- 5 doses of DTaP/Tdap/Td vaccine (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis)

¹ *Catch up Immunization schedules should be in compliance with AAP/ACIP recommendations and may differ from [routine schedules](#).

² According to the Vermont Department of Health Regular Immunization Schedule.

³ ** or proof of Immunity

⁴ ** or proof of Immunity

- 4 doses of Polio vaccine
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine^{5**}
- 2 doses of Varicella vaccine (Chickenpox) or documented history of disease^{6**}

When Enrolling in Seventh Grade

Students must have received all of the immunizations listed above **and:**

- One dose of Tdap vaccine (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis)

Completion Criteria

The Burlington Board of School Commissioners recognizes that all students must meet immunization requirements as defined by Vermont State Law in one of the following ways:

1. A student has received all required immunizations and submitted up-to-date immunization records.
2. A student may be admitted to school provisionally while in the process of acquiring the required immunizations with a written statement from a physician and/or health clinic.
3. A student who does not comply with the state immunization laws will be excluded from school until compliant in accordance with Vermont State law. (See below).

Exemptions

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1122, a student may remain in school without a required immunization if they satisfy one of the following exemptions:

(1) If the person or, in the case of a minor, the person's parent or guardian presents a form created by the Department and signed by a licensed health care practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccines or a health clinic stating that the person is in the process of being immunized. The person may continue to attend school or a child care facility for up to six months while the immunization process is being accomplished.

(2) If a licensed health care practitioner who is authorized to prescribe vaccines certifies in writing that a specific immunization is or may be detrimental to the person's health. A certifying health care practitioner shall specify the required immunization in question as well as the probable duration of the condition or circumstance that is or may be detrimental to the person's health. Any exemption certified under this subdivision shall terminate when the condition or circumstance cited no longer applies.

(3) If the person or, in the case of a minor, the person's parent or guardian annually provides a signed statement to the school that the person, parent, or guardian:

(A) holds religious beliefs opposed to immunization; and

(B) has reviewed evidence-based educational material provided by the Department of Health regarding immunizations, including:

(i) information about the risks of adverse reactions to immunization;

(ii) information that failure to complete the required vaccination schedule increases risk to the person and others of contracting or carrying a vaccine-preventable infectious disease; and

(iii) information that there are persons with special health needs attending schools who are unable to be vaccinated or who are at heightened risk of contracting a vaccine-preventable communicable disease and for whom such a disease could be life-threatening.

A student may be exempt from immunization requirements for medical or religious reasons. A guardian must complete the appropriate exemption form, found below and on the [District's website](#).

Medical Exemption Form

A signed statement from a physician stating that immunization is contraindicated. The [state medical exemption form](#) should be completed and submitted to your school. (See administrative regulations for the link to the exemption form.)

⁵ ** or proof of Immunity

⁶ ** or proof of Immunity

Religious Exemption Form

[The religious exemption form](#) must be completed annually at the beginning of each school year and must include a signed statement from the parent(s)/guardian(s) that immunization is against their religious beliefs. [Required readings by the state](#) shall be read by parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to electing a religious exemption.

Exclusion from School

In accordance with rules established by the Vermont Health Department pursuant to 18 V.S.A. Section 1123, if families do not provide the school with the appropriate immunization information, medical exemption form, religious exemption form annually, or provisional admittance form as requested by the school, by September 30th, students may be excluded from school beginning October 1st, or within 30 days of school start date if starting after the first day of the school year.

Notification Procedures

1. School Nurses will notify families of missing immunization information by September 15th of each school year.
2. Parents/Guardians who do not return the requested information will be notified in that notification of pending exclusion if they do not comply by September 30th.
3. If the requested information is still not submitted to school by Oct. 1st, parents/guardians will receive a phone call from the principal's office notifying them that their child must be excluded from school until the proper paperwork is completed and submitted to the school nurse's office. (Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. Section 1123, no school administrator shall knowingly admit or retain any student who has not submitted requested immunization information/forms, and if found doing so, will be subject to actions of the AOE under Title 16).
4. For any student who registers to start school in our system after October 1st, vaccination records/proper required paperwork must be submitted to the school prior to the first day of school.
5. In the event of exclusion, school officials shall notify the Department of Health and contact the parents/guardians in an effort to secure compliance with this policy so that the student may attend school.

Special Circumstances Regarding Exclusions

Students attending school under provisional admittance, medical exemption, or religious exemptions (see below) will be excluded from school should an outbreak of measles, polio, rubella, varicella, or diphtheria occur. The length of time a child/student is excluded from child care/school will vary depending on the disease, and can range from several days to more than a month.

Resources

- [The Vermont Department of Health Standards of Practice: School Health Services Manual: Immunization](#)
- [Parent Education Required for Completion of Vermont's Religious Exemption Form](#)
- [Religious exemption form](#)
- [Medical exemption form](#)
- [Notice of Missing Immunization and Provisional Admittance form](#)
- [Notice of Provisional Admittance and Exclusion Form](#)

Clerical Information

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