

IOWA'S IMMUNIZATION LAW

This brochure outlines the minimum immunization requirements for a child to attend school in Iowa. These requirements are based on Iowa law and the recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and are minimum requirements to maintain a healthy child in group settings.

Iowa's immunization requirements apply to ALL individuals attending schools in Iowa, including those who are home schooled.



Vaccines: Your best shot at prevention.

If you have questions about vaccines, ask your healthcare provider.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON VACCINES AND DISEASES, VISIT

- hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization
- www.immunize.org
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- www.aap.org



Health and
Human Services
Public Health

09/2024

School Immunization Requirements

Immunize for a better life!



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REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL

DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS/PERTUSSIS

5 doses with at least 1 dose received on or after 4 years of age; OR **4 doses** if the fourth dose was received on or after 4 years of age; AND

1 dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap) received on or after 10 years of age for applicants in grades 7 and above.

POLIO

4 doses with at least 1 dose received on or after 4 years of age; OR **3 doses** if the third dose was received on or after 4 years of age.

MEASLES/RUBELLA

2 doses

HEPATITIS B

3 doses

VARICELLA

2 doses; OR a reliable history of natural disease.

MENINGOCOCCAL

1 dose received on or after 10 years of age for applicants in grades 7 through 11; AND

2 doses with 1 dose received on or after 16 years of age for applicants in grade 12; OR **1 dose** for applicants in grade 12 if the dose was received on or after 16 years of age.

Proof of Immunization

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

A Certificate of Immunization must be given to the school the child will attend. To be valid, the Certificate of Immunization must include the name and birth date of the child, the dates required vaccines were received and must be signed by a physician (MD or DO), physician's assistant, nurse or certified medical assistant.

PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

A Provisional Certificate of Immunization may be granted to a student transferring from one U.S. school to another or for a child who has begun, but not complete the required immunizations for their age. To be eligible for provisional enrollment, the child must receive at least one dose of each of the required vaccines for their age. The next dose of required vaccine should be given as soon as possible but no longer than 60 days from the previous dose(s). If at the end of 60 days, the child has not received the next required dose(s) of vaccine, the child cannot attend school.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION

A medical exemption may be granted if a healthcare provider believes immunization(s) would be harmful to the child. To be valid, the Medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption must be completed and signed by an Iowa licensed physician (MD or DO), physician's assistant or nurse practitioner.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

A religious exemption may be granted if immunizations conflict with a genuine and sincere religious belief and is not based on scientific, medical or personal opinion. To be valid, the Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption must be completed with the name and birth date of the child and signed by the individual or the child's parent or guardian.

ENFORCEMENT

Students without a Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization or Certificate of Immunization Exemption cannot attend school on the first day.

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

It is important to maintain immunization records in a safe place. Proof of immunizations may be necessary throughout life. The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services does not maintain historical paper immunization records. However, immunization records can be entered into Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS). Talk with your healthcare provider about entering immunizations into IRIS and obtaining copies of your records.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

School immunization requirements do not apply to colleges and universities. Contact the college or university directly for specific immunization requirements.