



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.,
COMMISSIONER

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2009

SUPT. OFFICE



*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 750

IRVING ISD
MR JACK SINGLEY
PO BOX 152637
IRVING TX 75015-2637

1339

P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
1-888-963-7111
TTY: 1-800-753-2989
www.dshs.state.tx.us

March 18, 2009

Dear MR JACK SINGLEY:

RE: Changes in Texas Immunization Requirements

On March 5, 2009, the Executive Commissioner on Health & Human Services approved several revisions to the "Immunization Requirements for Children and Students in Texas Public and Private Schools" [Title 25, Health Services, Chapter 97, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.61 and §§97.63-97.77].

The changes to the requirements were made in order to update the Texas elementary and secondary school immunization requirements so that they adhere more closely to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These changes include:

Hepatitis A Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering kindergarten, statewide, will be required to have 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering kindergarten will be required to have two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Varicella Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering kindergarten and 7th grade will be required to have 2 doses of varicella vaccine. A written statement from a parent (or legal guardian or managing conservator), school nurse, or physician attesting to the child's positive history of varicella disease (chicken pox), or of varicella immunity, is acceptable in lieu of either dose of varicella vaccine.

Tetanus, Diphtheria and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap): Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering the seventh grade will be required to have one dose of Tdap vaccine. Students in the seventh grade will be required to have a booster dose of Tdap only if it has been five years since their last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Students in grades 8-12 are required to have a booster dose of Tdap if it has been ten years since their previous dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in lieu of Tdap if a contraindication to pertussis exists.

Meningococcal Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering 7th grade will be required to have one dose of meningococcal vaccine.

Page 2

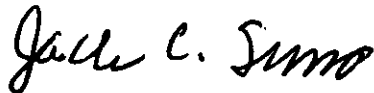
Changes in Texas Immunization Requirements

March 6, 2009

Please see the attached phase in schedule for the specific school year and grade(s) for each vaccine requirement. Not attached and currently under review, is the document titled "The Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Texas Children, (Stock No. 6-14)." This document will become available via the Immunization Branch website at www.immunizetexas.com on March 13, 2009. This document will be available for ordering via the automated literature and forms online ordering system at <https://secure.immunizetexasorderform.com/default.asp> on March 18, 2009.

Please contact the Immunization Branch Customer Service hotline at (800) 252-9152 if you have questions or need further information about immunization requirements in Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack C. Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the letter 'i' in "Sims".

Jack C. Sims, Manager
Immunization Branch

Phase-in Schedule for Hepatitis A, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, and Meningococcal Requirements for students.

Hepatitis A: This requirement will be phased in by grades through School Year 2021/22

SY 2009/10 K
SY 2010/11 K through 1
SY 2011/12 K through 2
SY 2012/13 K through 3
SY 2013/14 K through 4
SY 2014/15 K through 5
SY 2015/16 K through 6
SY 2016/17 K through 7
SY 2017/18 K through 8
SY 2018/19 K through 9
SY 2019/20 K through 10
SY 2020/21 K through 11
SY 2021/22 K through 12

MMR: This requirement will be phased in by grades through School Year 2021/22

SY 2009/10 K
SY 2010/11 K through 1
SY 2011/12 K through 2
SY 2012/13 K through 3
SY 2013/14 K through 4
SY 2014/15 K through 5
SY 2015/16 K through 6
SY 2016/17 K through 7
SY 2017/18 K through 8
SY 2018/19 K through 9
SY 2019/20 K through 10
SY 2020/21 K through 11
SY 2021/22 K through 12

Varicella: This requirement will be phased in by grades through School Year 2015/16

SY 2009/10 K and 7
SY 2010/11 K through 1, 7 through 8
SY 2011/12 K through 2, 7 through 9
SY 2012/13 K through 3, 7 through 10
SY 2013/14 K through 4, 7 through 11
SY 2014/15 K through 5, 7 through 12
SY 2015/16 K through 12, (adds the 6th grade)



Tdap: This requirement will be phased in by grades through School Year 2014/15

SY 2009/10 7
SY 2010/11 7 through 8*
SY 2011/12 7 through 9*
SY 2012/13 7 through 10*
SY 2013/14 7 through 11*
SY 2014/15 7 through 12*

*Grades 8 through 12. Beginning SY 2009 - 2010, students who have not already received Tdap vaccine are required to receive one booster dose of Tdap when ten years have passed since the last dose of a tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine.

Meningococcal: This requirement will be phased in by grades through School Year 2014/15

SY 2009/10 7
SY 2010/11 7 through 8
SY 2011/12 7 through 9
SY 2012/13 7 through 10
SY 2013/14 7 through 11
SY 2014/15 7 through 12



Frequently Asked Questions for 2009/2010 New Vaccine School Requirements

- Q. What are the new vaccine requirements and why are they being added?
- A. Five new vaccine requirements have been added and the vaccines effected are Hepatitis A, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, and Meningococcal. The changes to the requirements were made in order to update the Texas elementary and secondary school immunization requirements so that they adhere more closely to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.
- Q. When will the new changes for school requirements be effective?
- A. The new school requirements will be effective August 1, 2009. From 3/5/09 through 7/31/09 the present rules will remain in effect.
- Q. What if a student had a previous illness of the varicella disease (chickenpox), will they still need the vaccine?
- A. No. If a student has had chickenpox, they will not need to receive the vaccination. A written statement from a parent (or legal guardian or managing conservator), school nurse, or physician attesting to a child's positive history of varicella disease (chickenpox), or of varicella immunity, is acceptable in lieu of either dose of varicella vaccine.
- Q. What if a student is entering 7th grade and it has been less than 5 years since the last tetanus-containing vaccine, will they still need the Tdap vaccination?
- A. Students in the seventh grade will be required to have a booster dose of Tdap only if it has been five years since their last dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Students in grades 8 through 12 will be required to have a booster dose of Tdap vaccine if it has been 10 years since their previous dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in lieu of Tdap if a contraindication to pertussis vaccine exists, i.e., a child has had a previous reaction to pertussis vaccine.
- Q. What if a child already has two doses of measles-containing vaccine and only one dose of rubella, will they still need to get a second dose of MMR or will they need to start over and get two doses of MMR?
- A. No. Students in grades 1 through 12 will remain compliant under the present MMR requirement. Only those students entering kindergarten to start the 2009/2010 school year will need to have two doses of MMR.

