



SCHOOL VACCINATION INFORMATION FOR NURSES

The Department of Health is changing school immunization regulations beginning in August 2017. The regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in the commonwealth are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR VACCINATIONS:

- A child must have a single dose vaccine on the first day or risk exclusion.
- In the case of a multidose vaccine, a child must have at least one dose of the vaccine on school entry or risk exclusion.
- If the child has at least one dose and additional doses of a vaccine are necessary and are medically appropriate during the first five days of school, the child must either obtain final dose, or have the next scheduled dose and provide a medical certificate scheduling remaining doses.
- If the child has at least one dose and additional doses of a vaccine are necessary, but are not medically appropriate during the first five days of school, the child may provide a medical certificate on or before the fifth day scheduling the remaining doses.
- A child may still obtain a medical, religious or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction exemption from meeting the immunization requirements.

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND DESIGNEES:

- Requirement to review medical certificate and child's compliance at least every 30 days.
- Ability to exclude child who does not comply with the dates in the submitted medical certificate.
- Exempting from exclusion a child who is homeless.
- Exempting from exclusion for 30-days a child who is transferring from a school or country outside the commonwealth and cannot provide records.
- Providing limited waiver of vaccine requirements in the event of a disaster impacting ability of children transferring into a school to provide records, or in the event of a nationally recognized vaccine shortage.
- Reporting period due electronically by December 31.

FIND MORE DETAILS ON SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS:

dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov