



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H.  
COMMISSIONER

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1-888-963-7111 • <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>

June 20, 2005

### Re: **HB 1316—New Vaccine Requirements for Child-Care Attendance**

Dear School or Child-Care Official:

Effective September 1, 2005, House Bill (HB) 1316 will become law. This law requires that children attending child-care facilities be vaccinated against invasive pneumococcal and hepatitis A diseases. This change will effect children attending pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or other early childhood programs. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will revise rules related to these immunization requirements at a later date, however, the statute is effective September 1, 2005.

Pursuant to the Human Resource Code §42.043(b), each child at an appropriate age shall be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, mumps, rubella, rubeola, **invasive pneumococcal** and **hepatitis A** disease and against any other communicable disease as recommended by the DSHS. Additionally, DSHS requires vaccination against pertussis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, varicella, and hepatitis B. Although the law requires that the immunizations must be administered to the child on the date of first entry into the child-care facility, a child may be provisionally admitted if the required immunizations have begun and are completed as rapidly as medically feasible.

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, also known as pneumococcus. The most common types of infections caused by these bacteria include middle ear infections, pneumonia, blood stream infections (bacteremia), sinus infections, and meningitis. There are currently two licensed vaccines that prevent pneumococcal disease. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) is required for all children attending child-care facilities aged 2 months through 59 months of age. In addition to PCV7, children in certain high-risk groups aged two years and older are also required to have pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23). The attached chart explains the requirements and timing for these vaccines.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease commonly associated with food servers. It is spread from person to person by putting objects in the mouth that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with hepatitis A. Children attending child-care who are two years of age or older will need two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine separated by six to 18 months. Children must be allowed 18 months from the date of the first dose to complete the series before a child-care facility can deny admittance.

The requirement for students in grades kindergarten through third grade in specific high-incidence counties has not changed.

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The DSHS will distribute PCV7, PPV23, and hepatitis A vaccines to regional and local health departments and to providers enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children Program during the month of July so that children attending child-care facilities will have access to all three vaccines during the month of August in order to ensure that the required vaccinations have begun and allow children to be provisionally enrolled.

Health Service Regions and Local Health Departments are available for assistance with the implementation of HB 1316. For a list of these resources, please go to: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/default.shtm>.

For additional information regarding school or child-care facility immunization requirements, please contact the Immunization Branch, at (512) 458-7284, or (800) 252-9152.

Sincerely,

Jack C. Sims  
Manager, Immunization Branch

Enclosure

cc: Casey S. Blass, Director, Disease Prevention & Intervention Section