



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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July 19, 2016

RE: Required Immunizations for the 2016-2017 School Year

Dear Superintendent, Administrator, and School Health Staff:

As the upcoming school year approaches, please be reminded of the following information regarding the Texas minimum vaccine requirements for school entry. Immunizations are an important way to ensure the health and well-being of your students, their families, and your community.

Revisions to Title 25, Sections 97.61-97.72 of the Texas Administrative Code, relating to immunization requirements in Texas elementary and secondary schools, will take effect on July 28, 2016. The majority of these changes were made to clarify and update already existing language. However, there are a few changes that should be brought to your attention. The meningococcal vaccine requirement was updated to better reflect national recommendations: beginning SY 2016-2017, one dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4 or MenACWY) is required on or after the student's 11th birthday. Additionally, students in foster care are entitled to a 30 day provisional enrollment period if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available. Please refer to 25 TAC §§97.61-97.72 to read these updated rules in their entirety.

The *2016-2017 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students in Grades K-12* and *2016-2017 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Child-care Facilities* can be found on the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Branch website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com. The DSHS Immunization Branch also has numerous resources that may be useful during the back-to-school season, including Frequently Asked Questions, a provisional enrollment flowchart, recommended vaccine schedules, and more. Physical copies of these publications are available free of charge at the following website: www.ImmunizeTexasOrderForm.com. Additionally, two other letters are enclosed in this mailing. One letter addresses provisional enrollment of students and the other is a parent letter that highlights the importance of school-aged vaccinations.

For additional information on immunization requirements, please contact the DSHS Immunization Branch at (800) 252-9152. Thank you for your dedication to keeping Texas students healthy and well. We wish you a rewarding and productive 2016-2017 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Horton".

Margaret Horton
School Compliance Coordinator
Immunization Branch

Enclosures: Parent Letter
Provisional Enrollment Letter