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May, 2017



## Mount Pleasant Area School District

Dear Parents or Guardians,

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify our district families of an Immunization Law change that will impact your child to for the 2017-2018 school year.

As of March 3, 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has issued the following changes in guidelines in regards to Immunization Law and School Requirements.

- It is now requiring a **4th Polio Vaccination** prior to entering school. All students who did not previously receive this 4th Polio dose or a dose after their 4th birthday will be required to receive this vaccine prior to entering the 2017-2018 school year.
- All students entering 7th grade are required to have a Tdap booster and the first MCV (Meningococcal) vaccine.
- It is also requiring a **second** Meningococcal Vaccination (MCV) to be administered prior to entry into 12th grade.
  - A second dose is required at the age of 16 and required prior to **12th grade admission**
- Your child(ren) will need to have all vaccinations prior to entering the 2017-2018 school year. The dose is required within the **first five days of school** or written documentation from your healthcare provider must be submitted to the nurse, stating that the Immunization has been scheduled and the date the vaccine will be administered. If not completed, your child will be at risk of exclusion until the Immunization is administered. ***This 5 day regulation will be implemented for all immunizations that are delinquent upon entering school.***

These requirements do allow for medical and religious exemptions. A written signature is required from the family and/or doctor on the Pennsylvania Department of Health Immunization Card.

After completing the required vaccinations, please send a copy of the record to the nurse, email, or have your physician fax a copy to the school.

You can find the new requirements at <http://www.health.state.pa.us/> If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your school nurse. Thank you for your time and cooperation and ensuring your student has the required vaccinations to begin the 2017-2018 school year.

Educationally,

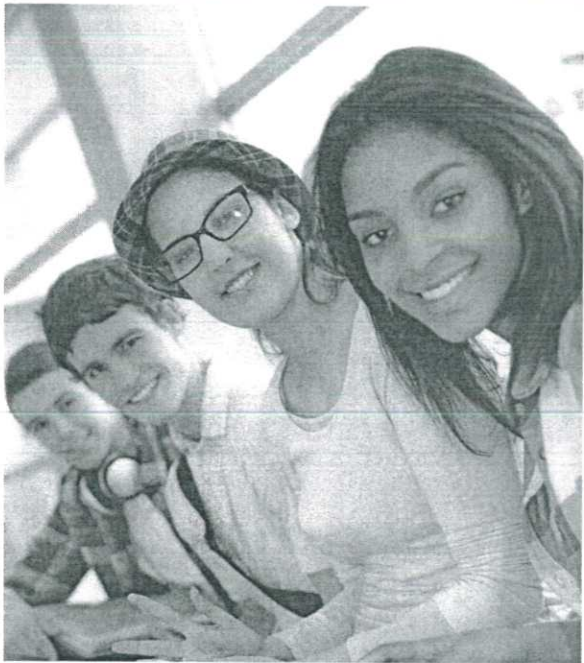
Anthony R. DeMaro  
Assistant Superintendent

# SCHOOL VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS

## FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES CHILDREN NEED THE FOLLOWING:



- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis\* (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
  - 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)\*\*
  - 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella\*\*\*
  - 3 doses of hepatitis B
  - 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity
- \*Usually given as DTP or DTaP or if medically advisable, DT or Td*  
*\*\* A fourth dose is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose*  
*\*\*\*Usually given as MMR*



**ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion.

- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within the first five days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the child must also provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child must provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- The medical plan must be followed or risk exclusion.

### FOR ATTENDANCE IN 7TH GRADE:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade.
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 7th grade.

**ON THE FIRST DAY OF 7TH GRADE**, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

### FOR ATTENDANCE IN 12TH GRADE:

- 1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the twelfth grade dose.

**ON THE FIRST DAY OF 12TH GRADE**, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

**The vaccines required for entrance, 7th grade and 12th grade continue to be required in each succeeding school year.**

These requirements allow for the following exemptions: medical reason, religious belief, or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Even if your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 Pa.CODE CH.23 (School Immunization). Contact your healthcare provider or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for more information.



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH