

## ACPS HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

- **Physical examination (Grades K-5)**, including a hearing and vision screening, on the state physical form (*MCH-213 G*) form within one year of original entry date into elementary school (Grades K-5 only). Parents/guardians must complete Part I – Health Information Form. Copies of the state physical form can be downloaded from: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health\\_medical/school\\_entrance\\_form/school\\_entrance\\_form.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/school_entrance_form/school_entrance_form.pdf). The physical examination should be performed by a health care provider licensed in the United States. Any transfer students (Grades K-5) entering an ACPS elementary school must provide either one or the other of the following: (1) records establishing that a physical examination was completed less than 12 months prior to enrolling in another school, or (2) a report of a physical examination dated within the last 12 months. This documentation does not have to be on the Virginia State form.
- **Physical examination (PreK)**: Students entering ACPS preschool programs must also present a school entry physical dated within one year of the entry date into preschool. A new school entry physical dated within one year of entry into Kindergarten will be required for Kindergarten registration.
- **Tuberculosis Screening**: Regardless of country of birth, all students entering Alexandria City Public Schools must have appropriate tuberculosis (TB) screening completed and documented by a health care provider, i.e., a school nurse, private doctor, or at the health department. This risk assessment or screening test must be done less than one year prior to the date of entry.

Acceptable screening methods used to document a child’s TB status for school entry include the following:

1. Written documentation of a negative Tuberculosis Risk Assessment, **or**
2. Written documentation from one of the following tests performed in the United States:
  - Interferon gamma release assay (an IGRA blood test, such as the QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube Test or the T-SPOT TB Test), **or**
  - Intradermal Mantoux (“PPD”) Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), which must be read by a nurse or doctor 48-72 hours after placement

Repetitive TB screening and/or testing of students for matriculation into school due to relocation within the United States or because of extensive absences from school is not generally recommended because such testing usually yields very few positive results or useful medical information. However, in the case of a student absence of more than 15 consecutive days, but less than 90 days, the school nurse should do a TB Risk Assessment for reenrollment of the student, if the child’s initial TB screening is on file at the school.

- **Immunization records, including:**
  - **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Dtap, DPT, or Tdap)** – a minimum of four doses, with one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically exempt from the pertussis-containing vaccine (Dtap or DTP). Adult Td is required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. Note: Children over the age of 7 years will need only 3 doses of a tetanus-containing vaccine if the 1<sup>st</sup> dose was administered at 12 months of age or older (Tdap may be given as one of the 3 doses).
    - Effective, July 1, 2019, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for new students entering 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students not meeting this requirement will not be allowed to enroll.
  - **Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine** - *This vaccine is required only for children up to 60 months of age (preschoolers). Children between the ages of 15 and 60 months (5 years) are only required to have one dose of vaccine.*
  - **Hepatitis B** – All children must have 3 doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine. There must be at least 1 month spacing between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses and 4 months spacing between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose must be given after the age of 6 months. (There is a 2-dose vaccine (Recombivax HB) approved for adolescents ages 11-15 only. The doses for this vaccine must be separated by a minimum of 4 months.)
  - **Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)** – Effective October 1, 2008, a complete series of 3 doses of HPV vaccine is required for females. The first dose shall be administered before the child enters 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents may elect for their child not to receive the HPV vaccine.
  - **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** – All children entering school (**K-12**) must have at least 2 doses of the measles and mumps vaccines and one dose of the rubella vaccine, with the first dose given on, or after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Most children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the combination MMR vaccine. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of MMR vaccine must be separated by at least 4 weeks (28 days). Preschool children should have at least one dose of the MMR vaccine.
  - **Polio (OPV or IPV)** – All children must have at least **4 doses** of polio vaccine, with one dose given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Note: A 4<sup>th</sup> dose is not necessary if the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose was administered at 4 years of age or older and at least 6 months following the previous dose.
  - **Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine** – All susceptible children born on or after January 1, 1997, shall be required to have a dose of varicella vaccine not

earlier than 12 months of age and a second dose must be administered prior to entering Kindergarten. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of varicella vaccine must be separated by at least 3 months for children under age 13. Children who have had the Chickenpox previously may show evidence of immunity to varicella in lieu of the vaccine (see Appendix A).

Virginia School and Daycare Minimum Immunization Requirements can be downloaded here:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/Immunization/documents/SchoolRegulations/Min%20Requirements.pdf>.

### **Evidence of Immunization**

Evidence acceptable for proof of required immunizations must include the month, day, and year each dosage was administered on forms developed by, or approved by, the State Department of Health. All students for whom dates cannot be provided (month, day, and year) must be referred to the local health department or their private physicians to update their records before entering school.

### **Conditional Enrollment**

A student may be enrolled for a period of 90 school days contingent upon the student's having received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines and the student's possessing a plan, from a licensed healthcare provider or local health department, for completing his or her immunization requirements within the ensuing 90 school days.

### **Exemptions**

1. A religious exemption may be granted when the parent or guardian has an objection on the grounds that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his or her religious tenets or practices and provides the principal with a written statement of such objection, unless an emergency or a disease epidemic has been declared by the State Board of Health. The parent must provide the school with a notarized copy of the Commonwealth of Virginia Certificate of Religious Exemption, which can be obtained online by accessing the website for the Virginia Department of Health at: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health\\_medical/certificate\\_religious\\_exemption.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/certificate_religious_exemption.pdf) (see Appendix B). This religious exemption certificate will remain filed in the student's Cumulative Health Record and recorded in the electronic student information database.
2. A medical exemption may be granted when the parent or guardian presents a statement from a licensed healthcare provider that states that the physical condition of the child is such that the administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to the health of the child. This

medical exemption certificate will remain filed in the student’s Cumulative Health Record and recorded in the electronic student information database.

**Military Families**

On July 1, 2009, Virginia entered into the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children* (Va. Code § 22.1-360). This compact facilitates the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensures that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district(s) or variations in entrance requirements. According to the compact, children of military families, without documentation of immunizations, should be immediately enrolled and shall have up to 30 days from the date of enrollment to obtain any immunization(s) required by the receiving state. The compact does not waive the physical examination requirement for these children.

**Students Who Are Experiencing Homelessness**

If a student is experiencing homelessness as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-3 and

- a. does not have documentary proof of necessary immunizations or has incomplete immunizations and
- b. is not exempted from immunization,

the school division will immediately admit such student and will immediately refer the student to the local school division Homeless Liaison in the Department of Student Services at 703-619-8156, who will assist in obtaining the documentary proof of, or completion of, immunizations.

**Immunization Requirements for Adult Students**

All ACPS students over the age of 18 enrolling in ACPS schools or adult education programs must provide documentation of completion of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices recommendations for adult immunizations for Tdap/Td, MMR, and Varicella series.

Revised: April 27, 2015

Revised: June 20, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-271.2, 22.1-271.4, 32.1-46, 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

12 VAC 5-110-10

Cross Refs:	JEC	School Admission
	JECA	Admission of Homeless Children
	JHCB	Student Immunizations
	JO	Student Records
	LBD	Home Instruction

## Appendix A

### ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE OF IMMUNITY TO VARICELLA VIRUS FOR THE PURPOSES OF MEETING VIRGINIA SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Evidence of immunity to varicella includes any of the following:

1. Documentation of 1 dose of varicella vaccine given at 12 months of age or older for children born on or after January 1, 1997. Effective March 3, 2010, documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine is required prior to kindergarten entry.
2. Laboratory evidence of immunity or confirmation of varicella disease.
3. Diagnosis, or verification of a history, of varicella disease by a health-care provider.\* (Parental reports are no longer acceptable without further evaluation. See below.)

Health care providers' documentation of a history of varicella

1. Complete Part II (Certification of Immunization), Section 1 the MCH form 213-G with the date of disease or serological confirmation, and sign the form.  
OR
2. Provide comparable information on a prescription blank with the provider's name printed on it, or on the provider's letter head stationery. Either of these must be signed by the provider.
3. School personnel should accept either of these documents, if signed and dated. If a prescription blank or note is presented, school personnel should attach this to the child's medical record.

Parental report of varicella disease

A school nurse may accept a parental report of varicella disease only if all of the following are reported by the parent in describing the child's illness.

- Acute onset of the illness.
- Maculopapulovesicular rash without other apparent cause.
- Generalized and pruritic rash with most lesions on the trunk.
- The lesions crusted over.

If these four criteria are met, the school nurse may document the history of varicella disease in Part II, Section 1, of the MCH 213-G form and initial the entry.

If all four criteria listed are not met, or the nurse is uncertain if they have been met, the parent should be referred to their private provider for a review of the history, vaccination, or serological testing.

\* "Health care provider" includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and registered nurses.

Appendix B

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
CERTIFICATE OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

The administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the above named Student's/my religious tenets or practices. I understand, that in the occurrence of an outbreak, potential epidemic or epidemic of a vaccine-preventable disease in my/my child's school, the State Health Commissioner may order my/my child's exclusion from school, for my/my child's own protection, until the danger has passed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian/student Date

I hereby affirm that this affidavit was signed in my presence on

This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public Seal