

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Health and Medical Services Immunization Fact Sheet
2008-2009

QUESTION: Where can I take my child to receive immunizations?
ANSWER: You may visit the [Project Safety Net](#) website for locations throughout the Houston area. You may also visit the [City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services](#) website or contact them by phone at 713 794 9267 for information regarding immunizations (including fees).

QUESTION: Can a student be admitted pending the receipt of immunization records?
ANSWER: If student is transferring within Texas or is a dependent of a person on active duty with armed forces, a 30 day provisional enrollment is allowed.
If student is enrolling from out of state or is entering school for the first time in Texas, current records must be presented before enrolling.

QUESTION: If a student goes to the clinic today and receives only the first in the series of immunizations, can that student be admitted to school?
ANSWER: Yes, because he/she has received all that is medically feasible at this time. However, the student must receive the remaining necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible to remain in school.

QUESTION: What immunization records are acceptable as proof of immunizations?
ANSWER: Those records that are signed by a physician or his designee, a public health official or from a school.

QUESTION: Can students whose immunizations become delinquent during the school year be excluded from school?
ANSWER: Yes. As specified by law, students whose immunizations are delinquent do not meet requirements for school attendance and shall be excluded until in compliance.

QUESTION: How long are medical exemptions valid?
ANSWER: For one calendar year, unless the physician specified a lifelong condition.

QUESTION: Are there exclusions from immunization compliance?
ANSWER: Yes. Exclusions from compliance are allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications and for reasons of conscience including religious belief. Students falling into these categories must submit signed affidavits from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) as specified in the law.

QUESTION: May a student be provisionally enrolled while awaiting the conscientious objection form?
ANSWER: No. Students must present a signed affidavit upon enrolling into school.

QUESTION: Is a personal/philosophical exemption form acceptable from another state?
ANSWER: No. Students claiming exclusion for reasons of conscious, including religious belief, must present an affidavit issued by the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#).

QUESTION: Can a student with a positive skin test be admitted to school?
ANSWER: Yes. A student may be admitted, provided that he/she has a pending appointment for a chest x-ray or school clearance form.

QUESTION: What is the Varicella (Chicken Pox) requirement?
ANSWER: Students in ALL grades, PK through Grade 12*, are required to have one (1) dose of Varicella vaccine on or after the first birthday or a reliable history of having had the disease. Reliable history of prior Varicella illness consists of either (1) written statement from a physician or student's parent or guardian containing wording such as "This is to certify that (name of student) had Varicella disease (Chicken Pox) on or about (date) and does not need Varicella vaccine," or (2) serologic confirmation of immunity.
** Note: If the first dose is received on or after 13 years of age, 2 doses are required.*

QUESTION: What vaccines are new for 2008-2009?
ANSWER: None, however, there are several new vaccines that are recommended, but not required.

Question: Is it acceptable to have "at birth" or "in hospital" written on the immunization record for Hepatitis B vaccine or is the actual date required?
Answers: Any immunization record created or updated after 9/1/91 must include month/day/year for each vaccine administered

QUESTION: Are doses given before the required age acceptable?
ANSWER: Yes. Doses administered less than or equal to four days before the required age or minimum interval between doses are considered valid doses.

QUESTION: Is there a "grandfathering" clause for students who received a booster dose of DTaP or polio vaccine more than four days before the fourth birthday?
ANSWER: Yes. For school year 2008-2009, students in grades 5 – 12 who received booster doses of DTaP and/or polio vaccine given more than 4 days prior to their fourth birthday (but within 30 days of 4th birthday), may be considered "in compliance" with school immunization requirement for DTaP and/or polio.

See the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) website or contact them by phone at 1-888-963-7111 for more details and answers to other questions regarding immunization requirements for school.