



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

275 East Main Street, HS1GWA
Frankfort, KY 40621
502-564-3970
Fax: 502-564-9377
www.chfs.ky.gov/dph

Vickie Yates Brown Gilsson
Secretary

October 9, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: New Kentucky Immunization Requirements for School Entry into High School

A recent amendment to the Kentucky Administrative Regulation on the immunization schedules for attending school added new immunization requirements for the school year beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

Effective July 1, 2018:

- **All** students in kindergarten through twelfth grade must show proof of having received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine to attend school, and
- **Students aged 16 years or older**, must show proof of having received two doses of Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (MenACWY) to attend school. If the first dose of MenACWY was received at age sixteen (16) years or older, the second dose is not required for school entry.

To meet these requirements, a **current** Certificate of Immunization Status must be provided to the school showing the date your child received these vaccine(s). If your child has already received the age-appropriate vaccines for school entry, he or she will not be required to receive the vaccine(s) again.

Acute hepatitis A disease has been in the news in the last several months because of a large outbreak in California caused by the contagious and easily spread hepatitis A virus. Most children with hepatitis A infection have no characteristic symptoms but can easily spread the virus to others. Children with acute hepatitis A disease can have fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, stomach pains and diarrhea, or jaundice. Acute liver failure and/or death can occur in the most severe cases.

MenACWY vaccine prevents diseases caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, a type of bacteria that is spread from person to person. Acute illness can appear mild at first, but can progress rapidly, becoming very serious and deadly in a matter of hours.

Re: New Kentucky Immunization Requirements for School Entry into High School
October 9, 2017
Page 2

Hepatitis A and MenACWY vaccines are available from your doctor, clinic or healthcare provider and are covered as a no-cost preventive service by most health insurance plans when administered by network providers. All local health departments administer Hepatitis A and MenACWY vaccines, especially for children who do not have health insurance. If your child is not up-to-date on immunizations, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department to schedule an appointment or to find out the hours when vaccines are given.

Online information about Hepatitis A and MenACWY vaccines is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ballard, MD, MPH, MPhil
State Public Health Epidemiologist
Department for Public Health



Kentucky Department for Public Health Amended Immunization Regulation

The following is a summary of the recent changes, effective June 21, 2017, to **902 KAR 2:060 Immunization schedules for attending child day care centers, certified family child care homes, other licensed facilities which care for children, preschool programs, and public and private primary and secondary schools**, <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/902/002/060.htm>. This amended Kentucky Administrative Regulation requires all children to have a current immunization certificate on file, contains the required immunizations schedule for attending, and has a process to obtain a religious exemption from the required immunizations.

- One new age-specific immunization requirement and one booster dose requirement effective for the school year beginning on or after **July 1, 2018**:
 - 2-Dose Series of HepA (Age: 12 months through 18 years)
 - Quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) booster dose (Age: 16 years)
- Homeschooled children are required to submit a current immunization certificate to participate in any public and private school activities (classroom, extra curriculum activity, or sports).
- All vaccines administered are printed on the Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status now including immunizations not required for school entry.
- Religious exemptions shall be documented on a signed and notarized Commonwealth of Kentucky Parent or Guardian's Declination on Religious Grounds to Required Immunizations. There will be a space for the parent or guardian to initial each specific immunization they are choosing to decline.
- New versions of forms, effective June 21, 2017, can be found on Websites for the Kentucky Department of Education, <http://education.ky.gov/districts/SHS/Pages/Immunization-Information.aspx> and the Kentucky Immunization Program, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/Immunization.htm>.
- Out-of-state immunization certificates may be accepted if they meet the same age-specific requirements as outlined in this regulation.
- A Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status printed from the Kentucky Immunization Registry (KYIR) does not require a signature.

- A licensed practical nurse (LPN) designee of a physician, local health department administrator, or other licensed healthcare facility may sign the Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status.
- School nurses and administrators can enroll in KYIR and print the Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status from the registry, and it will not require a signature.
- Routine certificate reviews are to occur at enrollment in a day care center, kindergarten, seventh grade, eleventh grade, and for the 2018-2019 school year for twelfth grade; new enrollment at any grade; upon legal name change; and at a school required examination pursuant to 702 KAR 1:160.
- A child whose certificate has exceeded the date for the certificate to be valid shall be recommended to visit the child's medical provider or local health department to receive immunizations required by this administrative regulation. An updated and current certificate shall be provided to the:
 - Day care center, certified family child care home, or other licensed facility that cares for children by a parent or guardian within thirty (30) days from when the certificate was found to be invalid; or
 - School by a parent or guardian within fourteen (14) days from when the certificate was found to be invalid.