



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

February 4, 2014

Dear Immunization Provider:

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 44-29-180, and State Regulation 61-8, the 2014-2015 "Required Standards of Immunization for School Attendance" and the "Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance" are enclosed. These requirements are effective for the 2014-2015 school year.

#### **General Guidance Points**

- A valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization **for all enrolled children, 3 months of age and older**, must be maintained by public and private childcare facilities (as defined in Section 63-13-20 of SC Code of Laws); public, private, and parochial schools, grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and child development programs under the control of the Department of Education.
- Children enrolled in PreK or 4K programs and younger must meet Day Care Requirements, even if attendance is in a school setting.
- Children enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten through Grade 12 must meet School Requirements.
- Children enrolled in grades 5K or greater who also attend a childcare facility (e.g., after school and/or summer program) must meet School Requirements and have a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization on file at both day care and school.
- Doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid doses according to accepted practice standards for the minimum age(s) and intervals.

#### **Changes for the 2014-2015 School Year**

- 10th grade has been added to the requirement for four (4) doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.
- (2) doses of Varicella vaccine are now required for all 5K students. Varicella vaccine is routinely administered at 12-15 months of age and 4-6 years of age. The first dose of varicella must be received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must be separated from the first dose by 12 weeks (for children <13 years of age) or 4 weeks (for children ≥13 years of age). If a child has a positive history of the disease (e.g. evidence of immunity), then they are exempt from this requirement.
- 2nd grade has been added to the requirement for three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine **with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday**.
- One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) is now required for all 7th and 8th grade students. Tdap is routinely administered at 11-12 years of age; however, if Tdap is needed at an earlier age, a dose administered on or after the seventh birthday will meet this requirement.
- Regarding the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC 2740):
  - **Only the DHEC 2740 should be used to complete a SC Certificate of Immunization.**
  - South Carolina Certificates of Immunization issued on the DHEC 1148 prior to 1/1/2014 are considered valid (or until expiration) and a DHEC 2740 does not need to be issued to replace this document unless vaccine status changes.
  - For 7th and 8th grade students with a SC Certificate of Immunization already on file, the DHEC 2740 allows for easy documentation of the new Tdap requirement: Enter the date of administration of the Tdap dose and check the appropriate box under the School Requirements section ("Certification for 7th grade Tdap requirement only"). As this is supplemental to the SC Certificate of Immunization on file, the other required vaccines do not need to be recorded on this form.

DHEC appreciates your continuing efforts to protect South Carolina children from vaccine-preventable diseases. Please encourage your patients to receive all age-appropriate vaccines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You may communicate this information as you deem appropriate. Procedural and other questions may be directed to the Regional Immunization Program Manager for each Public Health Region as shown on the DHEC Immunization Webpage "contacts" tab @ <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/immunization/contacts.htm> or DHEC's Immunization Division at 803-898-0460 or 1-800-277-4687 (1-800-27-SHOTS).

Sincerely,

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## 2014-2015 REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, "no superintendent of an institution of learning, no school board or principal of a school...may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.... Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted."

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following minimum immunization requirements are necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades five-year-old kindergarten through twelve (5K-12):

### Minimum Requirements:<sup>1,5</sup>

Vaccine for:	Grade	<b>Grade Level Requirements:</b> <i>Grade level requirements apply to all students entering or retained in the grades specified.</i>
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis</b>	5K – 10	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday <sup>2</sup>
	11 – 12	Three (3) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday
<b>Tdap Booster</b>	7-8	One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine received on or after the 7 <sup>th</sup> birthday <sup>3</sup> <b>If necessary, this dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis noted above.</b>
<b>Polio<sup>4</sup></b>	5K-2	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday
	3-12	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine (IPV) with at least one (1) dose received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday <b>OR</b> four (4) doses of <b>IPV</b> before 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday (if all doses separated by at least 4 weeks) - <b>Follow CDC recommendations for students 18 years of age and older<sup>4</sup></b>
<b>Rubeola (Measles) Rubella (German Measles) Mumps</b>	5K – 12	Two (2) doses of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least one month One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	5K – 12	Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
<b>Varicella</b>	5K	Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday separated by 12 weeks (children <13 years) or 4 weeks (children ≥ 13 years) or positive history of disease
	1-12	One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine with received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease

<sup>1</sup>When issuing a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid according to accepted practice standards for minimum age(s) and intervals.

<sup>2</sup>For unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children 7 years of age and older, refer to currently published ACIP Catch-Up Schedule for number of doses necessary to complete diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis series and meet this requirement.

<sup>3</sup>Tdap is routinely administered at 11-12 years of age; however, if Tdap is needed at an earlier age, a dose administered on or after the seventh birthday will meet this requirement.

<sup>4</sup>Routine vaccination of persons 18 years of age and older who reside in the United States is not necessary or recommended, unless in the following high risk categories: 1) traveler to areas where poliomyelitis is endemic or epidemic; 2) laboratory worker handling specimens that may contain polioviruses; or 3) healthcare worker who has close contact with patients who might be excreting wild polioviruses.

<sup>5</sup>Pursuant to South Carolina Regulation 61-8, students may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

**Medical Exemption:** The Medical Exemption section of the SC Certificate of Immunization should only be completed when a child has a permanent or temporary medical reason for exclusion from receipt of vaccine(s). The Medical Exemption section must only be completed by a licensed Physician (MD or DO) or his/her authorized representative (e.g. Physician's Assistant - PA, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - APRN).

**Religious Exemption:** A religious exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs and has notarized the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may only be obtained from the Department of Health and Environmental Control

**Special Exemptions:** A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption, signed by the school principal or his/her authorized representative, may be issued to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records from their former area of residence or to other students who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. This exemption may be issued only once and is valid for only thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment. Upon expiration of this special exemption, the student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption.

## 2014-2015 REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR DAY CARE ATTENDANCE

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, "...no owner or operator of a public or private childcare facility as defined in Section 63-13-20 may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted."

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following minimum requirements are necessary to receive the final immunization certificate for day care attendance for **4K programs and younger**. Children enrolled in day care who have not yet received all required immunizations must present a valid SC Certificate of Immunization that indicates by expiration date of the certificate when the next immunization(s) are due. The child is allowed to remain in the day care **no longer than 30 days after the noted expiration date**.

**Children enrolled in grade 5K or greater AND enrolled in a childcare facility (e.g., after school and/or summer program) must meet school immunization requirements and have a valid SC Certificate of Immunization on file at the childcare facility.**

### Minimum Requirements:<sup>1, 3</sup>

Vaccine for:	Day Care Requirements:
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis</b>	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, or DTaP vaccine
<b>Polio</b>	Three (3) doses of any combination of oral or inactivated Polio vaccine
<b>Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib)</b>	Current, age-appropriate <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Type b conjugate vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule. For children 15-59 months of age who have not yet completed age-appropriate Hib vaccination, one (1) dose of <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Type b vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required. <b>Hib vaccine is <u>not</u> required for children 5 years of age and older.</b>
<b>Rubeola (Measles)</b>	One (1) dose of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday
<b>Rubella (German Measles)</b>	One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday
<b>Mumps</b>	One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine with the third dose received >24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose
<b>Varicella</b>	One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease
<b>Pneumococcal</b>	Current, age-appropriate Pneumococcal vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule. <sup>2</sup> For children aged 24-59 months who have not yet completed any age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination schedule (PCV7 or PCV13), one (1) dose of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on or after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> birthday is required. <b>Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is <u>not</u> required for children 5 years of age and older.</b>

<sup>1</sup>When issuing a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid according to accepted practice standards for minimum age(s) and intervals.

<sup>2</sup>A single supplemental dose of PCV13 is strongly recommended for all children 14-59 months of age who have completed age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination with the 7-valent pneumococcal vaccine (PCV7), but is not required for day care attendance.

<sup>3</sup>Pursuant to South Carolina Regulation 61-8, children may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

**Medical Exemption:** The Medical Exemption section of the SC Certificate of Immunization should only be completed when a child has a permanent or temporary medical reason for exclusion from receipt of vaccine(s). The Medical Exemption section must only be completed by a licensed Physician (MD or DO) or his/her authorized representative (e.g. Physician's Assistant, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse).

**Religious Exemption:** A religious exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs and has notarized the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may only be obtained from the Department of Health and Environmental Control.