



Bullitt County Public Schools

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FAQ: Immunization Requirements for 2018-2019 school year

Starting July 1, 2018, the state of Kentucky will be requiring ALL students in grades Kindergarten – 12th to receive updated immunizations and provide new certificates to the schools. To make sure your child is compliant and ready to start school in August, please read below to find direction in preparing for these new changes.

1. What is Hepatitis A and why is it required?

Hepatitis A is a serious and potentially life-threatening infectious disease of the liver caused by the Hepatitis A virus. It is a vaccine-preventable disease and now a state requirement.

2. Why new requirements for meningitis?

Studies have found that protection from the meningitis vaccine decreases in many teens within 5 years, so a booster is needed to maintain protection during the age when most are at risk for the disease.

3. What health form does my child need to enroll in school for the 2018-2019 school year?

*All students will need a **NEW and** current immunization certificate listing all required shots for school attendance. Previous immunization forms did not address Hepatitis A for school attendance therefore, they can no longer be used for school attendance. These new forms were released in the summer of 2017. Your physician's office may print out an immunization certificate electronically which is fine for school attendance as long as it addresses the Hepatitis A (for ALL students K-12) and Meningococcal booster (students 16 years or older).*

4. I called my doctor to fax in a new certificate to the school; how can I find out if my doctor faxed over a new immunization certificate?

You will receive communication from the school if you are missing health forms for school attendance. However, it is parent/guardian responsibility to ensure all forms are submitted before the first day of school.

5. What NEW shots does my child need to attend school?

- a. *For students kindergarten- 12th grade- they will need 2 doses of Hepatitis A. It is possible that your child has already had these shots. Please check with your primary doctor to see. You will still need this documented on the NEW immunization certificate showing proof of these 2 shots given 6 months apart or longer.*
- b. *For students that are 16 years old or older- they will need 2 doses of the Meningococcal vaccine. One of which is a booster shot. The booster shot can be given at a minimum of 8 weeks following the first dose. IF your student was age 16 or older when the first dose was given then that is all that is required for school attendance.*

6. What happens if I cannot get two doses of Hepatitis A for my child before the start of school in August 2018?

*The Kentucky Immunization program states that children need to complete the hepatitis A immunizations prior to the start of 2018-2019 school year. Which is why we highly encourage the first shot to be given by the end of January. This will allow the second dose to be given by end of July. However, as long as there is documentation of one Hepatitis A shot on the **NEW** immunization form and an expiration date of 6 months later from first dose of Hepatitis A your child may attend school. Once that certificate expires then your child is not allowed to attend school until another updated certificate is provided.*

7. What happens if I cannot get the meningitis booster for my child before the start of school in August 2018?
*Your child will not be able to enroll or attend school until there is proof of receiving 2 doses of Meningococcal vaccine **IF** the first dose was given prior to age 16. If your child was over the age of 16 when the first dose was given then only 1 shot will be required.*

8. What are some options for obtaining these shots if I can't get an appointment with my primary doctor?
For those with private/employer issued insurance plans you can check with your pharmacy. Please note: Most pharmacies require the child to be 9 years of age. Most private insurance plans pay for the vaccine at the pharmacy. They will need a copy of your child's old immunization certificate at the time of the vaccination to issue a new certificate. Please contact your provider for the most up to date records or you can obtain a school copy- but it may not have all the shots listed since Hepatitis A was not required for school attendance in the past. Call before going to your pharmacy as they may need to order the vaccine and have them run a "test claim" to see if the vaccination would be covered.

To qualify for vaccinations through the health department you must meet one of the following criteria:

Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program:

- **Medicaid eligible:** A child who is eligible for the Medicaid program. (For the purposes of the VFC program, the terms "Medicaid-eligible" and "Medicaid-enrolled" are equivalent and refer to children who have health insurance covered by a state Medicaid program)
- **Uninsured:** A child who has no health insurance coverage
- **American Indian or Alaska Native:** As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (**25 U.S.C. 1603**)
- **Underinsured:** A child who has health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines; a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC eligible for non-covered vaccines only).

Call 955-7837 for an appointment. If you have not received previous vaccinations at the health department, then you will need to bring a copy of your child's immunization records to the appointment so that a new certificate can be issued.

9. Our religion does not permit us to vaccinate against some or all vaccines that are available. What do I need to provide for school enrollment or attendance?
*You will need to provide a **NEW** religious exemption form. All the older forms that have been submitted in years past will no longer be accepted.*

10. What other suggestions do you have for us a parents?
Keep copies of all certificates and extra copies of the most current certificate in case one gets misplaced with all these new forms. Contact your school or call 502-869-8000 to reach a nurse to address any further questions you might have with these new regulations.