

# Required Immunizations: Mandated for Attendance

## State Requirements

**Children must have documentation of receiving all age-appropriate immunizations.** Visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov> for state requirements. In addition to the required immunizations for school attendance for each grade level, the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have made additional vaccine recommendations for children and adolescents for added protection against dangerous and potentially life-threatening diseases.

## Tdap (Adacel, Boostrix):

Increased Protection from Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

Most infants and young children are routinely vaccinated against pertussis, but because vaccine protection begins to fade in older children and adults, a new vaccine (called Tdap) has been developed against pertussis for these age groups. This vaccine combines the well-known tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster with a pertussis booster to help protect against this potentially fatal illness.

## Meningococcal (Menactra, Menomune, Menveo):

Protection from Meningococcal Meningitis.

Meningococcal meningitis, a form of meningococcal disease, is a serious bacterial infection. Unlike viral meningitis, it can potentially kill or disable an otherwise healthy young person within 1 day after the first symptoms appear. Even people who are usually healthy can get meningitis. However, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have shown that the risk of getting meningitis increases in teens and young adults.

Students currently in grades 7-12 are required to receive vaccination against this form of bacterial meningitis in order to attend school. Also, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a booster dose of the vaccine for 16 – 18 year olds who received the vaccine between 11 and 15 years of age, since studies have shown that protective immunity to the disease declines after a 5 year period. This decline in protection is what led to SB 1107 requiring documentation of the vaccine within the past 5 years for students entering college.

For more information visit [www.voicesofmeningitis.com](http://www.voicesofmeningitis.com).

## Exemptions from Immunizations

**For medical reasons:** The law allows physicians to write a statement stating that the vaccine(s) required would be medically harmful or injurious to the health and well-being of the child. The written statement by the physician must be submitted to the school nurse. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

**For reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs:** The law allows parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The completed and returned form from the Texas DSHS must be submitted to the school nurse in order for the student to be admitted. The school will accept only the original official affidavit forms developed and issued by the Texas DSHS. The affidavit will be valid for two years.

**Please note: In the case of an outbreak, an un-immunized child may be prohibited from school attendance.**

Any form presented for conscientious objection to immunization must be presented before the student may start school and must be updated every two years by the anniversary date.

**Because the student had the disease:** Parents of students who had the chicken pox disease (varicella) may submit a signed form to the campus nurse that indicates the date that the child had the disease.

**Immunity Documented by Lab Result (Immunity by Titer):** Students who have had a lab test that shows they are immune to the following diseases may present a copy of the laboratory results in lieu of documentation of the vaccines:

- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B