



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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March 6, 2009

Dear Physicians:

Dear School or Child-care Facility Administrator:

RE: Changes in Texas Immunization Requirements

On March 5, 2009, the Executive Commissioner on Health & Human Services approved several revisions to the "Immunization Requirements for Children and Students in Texas Public and Private Schools" [Title 25. Health Services, Chapter 97, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.61 and §§97.63-97.77].

The changes to the requirements were made in order to update the Texas elementary and secondary school immunization requirements so that they adhere more closely to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These changes include:

Hepatitis A Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering kindergarten, statewide, will be required to have 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering kindergarten will be required to have two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Varicella Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering kindergarten and 7th grade will be required to have 2 doses of varicella vaccine. A written statement from a parent (or legal guardian or managing conservator), school nurse, or physician attesting to a child's positive history of varicella disease (chickenpox), or of varicella immunity, is acceptable in lieu of either dose of varicella vaccine.

Tetanus, Diphtheria and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap): Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering the seventh grade will be required to have one dose of Tdap vaccine. Students in the seventh grade will be required to have a booster dose of Tdap only if it has been five years since their last dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Students in grades 8-12 are required to have a booster dose of Tdap if it has been ten years since their previous dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in lieu of Tdap if a contraindication to pertussis exists.

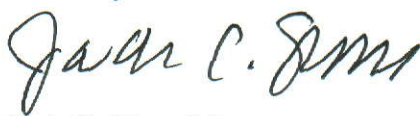
Meningococcal Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering 7th grade will be required to have one dose of meningococcal vaccine.

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Please see the attached phase-in schedule for the specific school year and grade(s) for each vaccine requirement. Not attached and currently under review, is the document titled, "The Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Texas Children, (Stock No. 6-14)." This document will become available via the Immunization Branch website at www.immunizetexas.com on March 13, 2009. This document will be available for ordering via the automated literature and forms online ordering system at <https://secure.immunizetexasorderform.com/default.asp> on March 18, 2009.

Please contact the Immunization Branch Customer Service hotline at (800) 252-9152 if you have questions or need further information about immunization requirements in Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack C. Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark above the 'i' in "Sims".

Jack C. Sims, Manager
Immunization Branch