

Immunization Guidelines for New School Enterers

State law requires that all children entering school in West Virginia for the first time, unless properly medically exempted, must be immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, and rubella. This does not apply to students who have already attended school in West Virginia. Private physicians may not authorize requirements or exemptions conflicting with those listed on this sheet.

Kindergartners

- DTaP/ DTP Before admission, three doses required. **One dose must be on or after the 4th birthday.**
- Polio (IPV/OPV) Before admission, three doses required. **One dose must be on or after the 4th birthday.**
- Measles Before admission, two doses required. **First dose must be on or after the 1st birthday.**
Minimum 28 days apart.
- Rubella Before admission, two doses required. **First dose must be on or after the 1st birthday.**
Minimum 28 days apart.

Out-of-State Transfers

- DTaP/ DTP Same requirements as for kindergarten. **
- Polio (IPV/OPV) Same requirements as for kindergarten. *
- Measles Before admission to 1-12, one dose required; two doses for kindergarten.
- Rubella Before admission to 1-12, one dose required; two doses for kindergarten.

*After one dose of each required vaccine series is given, the student may be admitted and allowed 90 days to complete remaining doses.

** DTaP/Td/Tdap series' require 210 days (seven months) if the student has had no previous doses of tetanus-containing vaccine.

Exemptions

- DTaP/ DTP Children exempted from the pertussis component must have a written exemption from a physician and must receive DT vaccine instead, or if past 7th birthday, Td vaccine.
- Polio (IPV/OPV) Children may be exempted from IPV/OPV if a physician writes the specific medical condition, which precludes the vaccine. The physician may not merely state the vaccine is inappropriate. In many cases IPV can be substituted.
- Measles Children may be exempted if the physician writes the specific medical condition that precludes the vaccine.
- Rubella Children may be exempted if the physician writes the specific medical condition that precludes the vaccine.
- Other** West Virginia School Law does not provide for religious or philosophical exemptions.

**WV Bureau for Public Health recommends that vaccine doses administered
≤ 4 days before the minimum interval or age be counted as valid.**
