

**REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS**  
ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis**

**5 doses** with 1 dose received  $\geq$  4 years of age if born after Sept. 15, 2003; **OR**

**4 doses** with 1 dose received  $\geq$  4 years of age if born after Sept. 15, 2000 but on or before Sept. 15, 2003; **OR**

**3 doses** with 1 dose received  $\geq$  4 years of age if born on or before Sept. 15, 2000; **AND**

**1 dose** of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis - containing (Tdap) vaccine for applicants born after Sept. 15, 2000, upon entrance into 7th grade and above

**Polio**

**4 doses** with 1 dose received  $\geq$  4 years of age if born after Sept. 15, 2003; **OR**

**3 doses** with 1 dose received  $\geq$  4 years of age if born on or before Sept. 15, 2003

**Measles/Rubella**

**2 doses** with the first dose received  $\geq$  12 months of age; second dose no less than 28 days after the first dose

**Hepatitis B**

**3 doses**

**Varicella**

**2 doses** received  $\geq$  12 months of age if born after Sept. 15, 2003; **OR**

**1 dose** received  $\geq$  12 months of age if born on or after Sept. 15, 1997, but born on or before Sept. 15, 2003; **OR**

A reliable history of natural disease

**Meningococcal**

**1 dose** received on or after 10 years of age for applicants in 7th grade and above, if born after September 15, 2004; **AND**

**2 doses** for applicants in the 12th grade, if born after September 15, 1999, (1 dose received on or after 16 years of age); or 1 dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

**KEY:**

$>$  = greater than                       $<$  = less than  
 $\geq$  = greater than or equal to         $\leq$  = less than or equal to

**VACCINES**  
YOUR BEST SHOT AT PREVENTION

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

If you have questions regarding Iowa's immunization law, please call the Iowa Department of Public Health at:

1-800-831-6293

**OR VISIT:**

<https://idph.iowa.gov/immtnb/immunization>



**IMMUNIZATION LAW AND YOU**

Immunize for a better life!



**REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS**  
LICENSED CHILD CARE

**Less than 4 months of age**

This chart contains the minimum requirements for participation in licensed child care. Routine vaccination begins at 2 months of age.

**4 through 5 months of age**

**1 dose** each of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, Polio, Hib, Pneumococcal

**6 through 11 months of age**

**2 doses** each of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, Polio, Hib, Pneumococcal

**12 through 18 months of age**

**3 doses** Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis

**2 doses** Polio

**2 doses** Hib if received 1 dose  $<$  15 months of age; or 1 dose if received  $>$  15 months of age

**3 doses** Pneumococcal if received 1 or 2 doses  $<$  12 months of age; 2 doses if received 1 dose  $>$  12 months of age or has not received this vaccine before

**19 through 23 months of age**

**4 doses** Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis

**3 doses** Polio

**3 doses** Hib with the final dose in the series  $\geq$  12 months of age; or 2 doses if only 1 dose received  $<$  15 months of age; or 1 dose received if  $\geq$  15 months of age

**4 doses** Pneumococcal if received 3 doses  $<$  12 months of age; or 3 doses if received 1 or 2 doses  $<$  12 months of age; or 2 doses if received 1 dose  $\geq$  12 months of age or has not received this vaccine before

**1 dose** Measles/Rubella  $\geq$  12 months of age

**1 dose** Varicella  $\geq$  12 months of age or a reliable history of natural disease

**24 months of age and older**

**4 doses** Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis

**3 doses** Polio

**3 doses** Hib with the final dose in the series  $\geq$  12 months of age; or 2 doses if only 1 dose received  $<$  15 months of age; or 1 dose if received  $\geq$  15 months of age

**4 doses** Pneumococcal if received 3 doses  $<$  12 months of age; or 3 doses if received 2 doses  $<$  24 months of age; or 2 doses if received 1 dose  $<$  24 months of age; or 1 dose if received no doses  $<$  24 months of age

**1 dose** Measles/Rubella  $\geq$  12 months of age

**1 dose** Varicella  $\geq$  12 months of age or a reliable history of natural disease



## IOWA'S IMMUNIZATION LAW

This brochure outlines the minimum immunization requirements for a child to attend licensed child care and school in Iowa. These requirements are based on the recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and are minimum requirements to maintain a healthy child in group settings. Iowa's immunization requirements apply to ALL individuals attending licensed child care centers and schools in Iowa, including those who are home schooled.

# PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION

### CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

A Certificate of Immunization must be given to the licensed child care center or school the child will attend. To be valid, the Certificate of Immunization must include the name and birth date of the child, the dates required vaccines were received and must be signed by a physician (MD or DO), physician's assistant, nurse or certified medical assistant.

### PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

A child who has begun, but not completed, the required immunizations for their age may receive a Provisional Certificate of Immunization so they may attend licensed child care or school while they finish their required vaccinations. To be eligible for provisional enrollment, the child must receive at least one dose of each of the required vaccines for their age. The next dose of required vaccine should be given as soon as possible but no longer than 60 days from the previous dose(s). If at the end of 60 days, the child has not received the next required dose(s) of vaccine, the child cannot attend licensed child care or school.

The Provisional Certificate of Immunization must be submitted to the licensed child care center or school the child attends while completing the required immunizations. After the child has received all the required immunizations, a Certificate of Immunization must be submitted to the licensed child care center or school. Students transferring from one U.S. school to another are eligible for provisional enrollment for 60 days to allow their immunization records to be transferred from the previous school.

### MEDICAL EXEMPTION

A medical exemption may be granted if a health care provider believes immunization(s) would be harmful to the child or a member of the child's household. To be valid, the Certificate of Immunization Exemption must be completed and signed by a physician (MD or DO), physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. The Certificate of Immunization Exemption must be submitted to the licensed child care center or school the child attends.

### RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

A religious exemption may be granted if immunizations conflict with a religious belief and is not based on scientific, medical or personal opinion. To be valid, the Certificate of Immunization Exemption must be completed with the name and birth date of the child and signed by the individual or the child's parent or guardian and must be notarized. The Certificate of Immunization Exemption must be submitted to the licensed child care center or school the child attends.

### ENFORCEMENT

Students who do not provide a Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization or Certificate of Immunization Exemption to the licensed child care center or school on the first day of school cannot attend.

### SCHOOL RECORDS

Schools are required to keep the certificate(s) on file for three years after the transfer/graduation of the child or provide the certificate(s) to the student upon graduation. If the child transfers to a different school, the previous school will assist in the transfer of the certificate(s).

Blank certificates are available from health care providers, schools, local public health agencies or on the Iowa Department of Public Health website at <http://idph.iowa.gov/ImmTB/Immunization/laws> or by calling the Iowa Department of Public Health, Immunization Program, at 1-800-831-6293.

### IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

It is important to maintain immunization records in a safe place. Proof of immunizations may be necessary throughout life. The Iowa Department of Public Health does not maintain historical paper immunization records. However, immunization records can be entered into a permanent statewide electronic database called IRIS, Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System. Talk with your health care provider about entering your immunizations into IRIS and to obtain copies of your immunization records.

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Iowa Department of Public Health rules do not apply to immunization requirements for colleges and universities. Contact the college or university directly for their specific immunization requirements.