

Are Your Kids Ready for School?

Minnesota's School Immunization Law

Directions:

- Find the child's age/grade level and read across to the right.
- Look to see whether the child had the number of shots shown by the checkmark(s) under each vaccine.

Note: Each row is meant to be read separately, so don't add up the columns of checkmarks under each vaccine.

Example: A preschooler needs 4 DTaP, then to enter kindergarten he or she needs 1 more DTaP, for a total of 5 (not 9).

	Hep B hepatitis B	DTaP/Td/Tdap diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough)	Polio	MMR measles, mumps, rubella	Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Varicella* (chickenpox)
Preschool		✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	At least ✓	✓
Kindergarten	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓ 5 th shot not needed if 4 th was after age 4	✓✓✓✓ 4 th polio not needed if 3 rd was after age 4	✓✓		✓
Age 7 through 6th grade		At least ✓✓✓	At least ✓✓✓	✓		
7th through 12th grade	✓✓✓ 7 th grade only***	At least ✓✓✓ AND one Td or Tdap shot required at age 11 or older**	At least ✓✓✓	✓✓		✓ 7 th grade only

* Varicella shot not required if child already had chickenpox disease. By fall 2008, two doses will be required for all children entering kindergarten and those entering 7th grade.

** Unless a Td (tetanus and diphtheria) was given after the 7th birthday; then it must be repeated 10 years after the last dose. Tdap (tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis, for adolescents) or Td is recommended at age 11-12.

*** An alternate two-dose schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids from age 11 through 15 years.

To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they've had these immunizations or file a legal exemption with the school.

Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by parent/guardian and notarized.

- Shots for pneumococcal disease are recommended for children under 5 years of age but are not required for school.
- All children should be protected by hepatitis B shots - not just those required to have them by law.
- A yearly influenza shot is recommended, but not required, for children age 2 years and older who have chronic health conditions such as asthma and diabetes; talk to your child's doctor. It is also recommended for all children 6 to 23 months of age and anyone over the age of 23 months who wants to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza. Children receiving influenza for the first time need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart.