

IDPH Immunization Section Questions

ISBE School Nurse Bootcamp-IDPH Session August 2, 2021 1:30-3:30

Interval for immunizations

1. *This question has been paraphrased to remove protected information and for clarity. A student's last polio shot was administered at 4 years of age. The student's doctor stated that the student was too old to get the last dose. How should I proceed?*

According to both ACIP Recommendations and Illinois School Requirements, an additional dose of Polio vaccines must be given at 4 years of age or older and at least 6 months from previous dose, if the child is 17 years of age or younger. Per the ACIP, polio vaccine is not routinely recommended for U.S. citizens 18 years or older. If a provider does not vaccinate a child with polio vaccine due to age, a Health Care Provider Statement of Immunity may be provided to the school.

2. **If there is a 6th grade student that already got three doses of hep B for pre-k, do they have to get another three doses in 6th grade?**

If a student is properly immunized for hepatitis B in Pre-K, then consider the student in compliance.

3. **How early can Tdap be given?**

For Tdap to be considered for the 6th grade requirement, it can be administered at the 10th birthday or older. It is routinely administered between 11 and 12 years of age.

4. **If a student meets all the minimal intervals for hepatitis b vaccination but received the third dose after 4 months (but before 6 months) can we accept it?**

For students in grade 6th and above, the interval for the 3rd dose of hepatitis B is 2 months from previous dose and at least 4 months from the first dose.

5. **Is the 4-day grace period accepted for the live virus vaccine if it was given 4 days prior to age 1?**

If either an MMR or Varicella was administered within 4 days of the 1st birthday, the 4-day grace period would apply. However, the 4-day grace period does not apply to the 28-day minimum interval between live vaccine doses.

6. *This question has been paraphrased to remove protected information and for clarity. It has been stated in previous years by IDPH that you can accept MMR and varicella 4 days before their first birthday.*

The rule is for 28 days between dose 1 and dose 2. If MMR or Varicella was administered within 4 days prior to the first birthday, then it would be compliant as part of the 4-day grace period. However, the 4-day grace period does not apply to the 28-day interval between live vaccines doses.

7. **We must request a new religious waiver for each school vaccination interval. For example - a kindergarten student with full vaccine exemptions due to religious beliefs must submit a NEW signed waiver for 6th grade entry.**

Every time a health exam is required, an updated or new medical objection and/or religious exemption is required.

IDPH Immunization Section Questions

ISBE School Nurse Bootcamp-IDPH Session August 2, 2021 1:30-3:30

8. Is it correct that children need the 3 doses of the hepatitis B vaccine to be compliant?

The requirement for hepatitis B is 3 doses of the vaccine, properly spaced. Hepatitis B is required at grade level before kindergarten, and at sixth grade [Code 665.240 \(i\)1](#).

Immunity Reviews

9. When is a review of immunity by IDPH indicated?

A Health Care Provider Statement of Immunity is required when any vaccine dose administered at an interval less than required in Illinois or prior to the age required* (*4-day grace period) or if a health care provider feels that the student is adequately immunized, or immunization is not necessary or indicated.

10. When does "proof of immunity" need to be sent to IDPH staff for approval?

A Health Care Provider Statement of Immunity is required when any vaccine dose administered at an interval less than required in Illinois or prior to the age required* (*4-day grace period) or if a health care provider feels that the student is adequately immunized, or immunization is not necessary or indicated.

11. If a student has a blood titer result submitted with the physical and the titer is shown in ICARE, does this still need to be submitted for immunity review with the state?

Public Health Code--665.250 a) states that documentation of laboratory evidence of immunity must be reviewed by IDPH staff.

12. Since West Chicago region does not have an immunization consultant, where do we send immunization reviews?

A new procedure is in development that will apply to all regions. Do not email protected health or student information. Please wait to submit these requests until the new fax procedure is approved and posted.

13. Where do we find the email address for where to send the reviews?

A new procedure is in development that will apply to all regions. Do not email protected health or student information. Please wait to submit these requests until the new fax procedure is approved and posted.

14. I have a kindergarten student the physician is stating has immunity to varicella. The child will need to have titers drawn and provided, along with a physician note?

Proof of Immunity for varicella would include any of the following: vaccination; laboratory evidence of immunity; date of illness signed by a physician; or a health care provider's interpretation that a parent's or legal guardian's description of varicella disease history is indicative of past infection.

Exemptions

15. This question has been paraphrased to remove protected information and for clarity. Exemption, I would like the specific school code/ISBE rules to support this information.

IDPH Immunization Section Questions

ISBE School Nurse Bootcamp-IDPH Session August 2, 2021 1:30-3:30

The Religious Exemption letter that a parent or guardian can submit is for a religious exemption only, Section 665.510 of the Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization Code. The form can be found at the following link:

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-981815-040816.pdf>

16. **If a student has a religious exemption for immunizations, does it need to be updated each time a new physical exam is due?**

Yes, every time a health exam is required, an updated or new religious exemption form must be submitted

17. **Is an exemption form required for 12th grade meningitis since there is no required exam at this time?**

Since meningitis is a 9th grade requirement, , if the student had an exemption when entering 9th grade, then a new exemption is not needed for 12th grade. If the 9th grade dose was not exempted, but an exemption is requested in 12th grade, the form is required at that time.

18. **For the religious exemption, just to clarify, does the parent have to state each individual immunization and why it's a religious objection or can they write a general statement for all the immunizations required for that grade? Thank you**

There are check boxes on the Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption that the parent or legal guardian can check to indicate which immunization or exam they want to exempt. In addition, a separate written statement for each exam or immunization is required.

19. **If a student was in 3rd grade with a religious exemption, then homeschooled for 4th grade, then returned to the district for 5th grade, is a new religious exemption form needed?**

If a student were in an Illinois school for 3rd grade and submitted a religious exemption, then was homeschooled in 4th grade, returned in 5th grade, the religious exemption would still be valid until 6th grade.

20. **Parents are having trouble in our district finding a provider who will do a physical exam if the parent objects to vaccines. Options?**

You may want to advise the parents/guardians to contact their local health departments or contact IDPH School Health, which has a listing of School Based Health Centers.

IDPH Forms

21. **How recent was this form updated so that we make sure we have the most current form, is there a date on it?**

Illinois Department of Public Health's Child Health Exam form which includes immunization AUGUST 2015

22. **If we have an MD note stating immunizations will occur, this is acceptable? If we have a letter from the parent that they will obtain the immunizations, is this acceptable?**

IDPH Immunization Section Questions

ISBE School Nurse Bootcamp-IDPH Session August 2, 2021 1:30-3:30

Section 665.270 states that if a student needs additional immunizations, a signed statement from an HCP indicating when the remaining immunizations will be administered during the current school year is required.

23. *This question has been paraphrased to remove protected information and for clarity. If you receive information that does not compare with records in ICare, whom should you contact? For example, an immunization record signed by a physician.*

If the immunization records are signed by MD, DO, APN or PA where the immunizations were administered, they would be valid. ICARE does not contain every vaccination administered to every patient, only those vaccines that have been reported.

24. **Will the progressive schedule for IPV be available on the ISBE school health page?**

The Minimum Immunization Requirements for School Year 2021-22 will be available on the IDPH website as soon as it is published.

25. **The immunization handout has a fall 2021 vaccine requirement chart, but the link goes to the IDPH page, which then takes you to the 2020 chart. Will this be updated? Thank you.**

The Minimum Immunization Requirement Chart for school year 2021-22 will be posted with publication approval.

26. **Just to clarify, if the electronic immunization form is signed by the physician or nurse, does the actual Child Health Exam form with the immunizations (on the front) also need to be signed?**

A signature must appear on either the Child Health Examination Form or on the paper immunization record.

27. **Do you recommend we start using the Fall 21 Minimum Immunization Requirement document now or should we wait for approval to see if anything changes? We are checking lots of immunization records now.**

The Requirements for the school year 2021-22 are what was discussed during the webinar.

28. **If a printout of an electronic immunization record is included with the health exam, does that print out need to be signed by provider (if not signed on the immunization section with "see attached"?)**

A signature must appear on either the Child Health Examination Form or on the paper immunization record.

29. **We as the school RN can sign the immunization portion of the health exam form? is that correct?**

An MD, DO, APN, PA, School Health Professional, or health official may sign the immunization portion of the health exam form

30. **The link for the "Minimum Immunization Requirements" is for 2020. Where can I find the 2021 version?**

This will be posted on the IDPH website (<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/immunization>) under "Publications" when approved.

IDPH Immunization Section Questions

ISBE School Nurse Bootcamp-IDPH Session August 2, 2021 1:30-3:30

31. If we sign the immunization form, what does that mean? What is it saying we are doing?

It means you are verifying the immunization history.

Exclusion

32. What can the school do if the parent does not want to immunize their child, and it is not due to a religious or medical objection? Can the child be excluded?

If the student is not in compliance with immunizations or health examination, and it is not due to either a medical or religious exemption, then the student is considered out of compliance and would be subject to exclusion.

I-Care

33. Can the school nurse sign the immunization forms printed from ICARE?

Yes

34. If we can print off immunizations from ICARE and it is complete for the required grade level. The provider does not need to sign the form, correct?

A signature must appear on either the Child Health Examination Form or on the paper immunization record.

35. Will IDPH/I-care ever collaborate with SNAP Health Center to link vaccines from one system to the other?

A school health EHR can contact I-CARE staff to see if there is a way for bi-directional query.

36. This question has been paraphrased to remove protected information and for clarity. If an I Care report for immunizations is submitted w/ physical but no signature on form or I Care form is that still acceptable for the school?

A signature must appear on either the Child Health Examination Form or on the paper immunization record.

Validating

37. Is there a website that you input the child's immunization dates and it would tell if valid?

There are several companies that offer these programs.