



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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March 1, 2010

### RE: Required Immunizations for the 2010-2011 School Year

Dear Parents of Students in Texas Schools, Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grades:

Immunizations are an important part of public health, and Texas law requires students in Texas schools to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) understands that it can be hard to find the time and money to get your children vaccinated, and many times it is not something you are able to do until the month of August. But we would like to stress the importance of getting these required vaccines at the earliest possible time, to avoid the back-to-school immunization rush that occurs every year during the month of August.

Below is a list of the required vaccines for students who will attend a Texas school in the 2010-2011 school year. This list includes new requirements that were added to kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009. *Parents of students who will enter kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade should pay special attention to the additional vaccine requirements.* Please be aware that students without the required immunizations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school.

#### Vaccine requirements for students entering kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade:

- 3 to 5 doses\* of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP/DTP/DT/Td)
- 3 to 4 doses\* of polio
- 2 doses\* of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 1 to 2 doses\* of varicella
- 1 booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) 10 years after the last dose of tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine

#### Additional vaccine requirements for students entering kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- 2 doses of hepatitis A for students entering K – 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- 2 doses of varicella for students entering K – 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 1 booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade, if at least 5 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-diphtheria-containing vaccine
- 1 dose of meningococcal for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

\*To determine the specific number of doses that will be required, please read the document included with this letter, entitled *2010-2011 Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Texas Students*. This document and more information about school vaccine requirements are available on the Immunization Branch website at [www.immunizetexas.com](http://www.immunizetexas.com) (click on the 'School and Childcare' link).

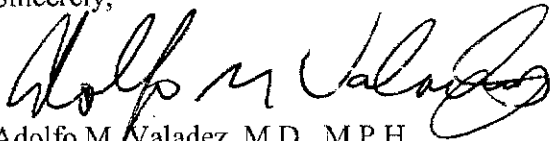
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If you need help determining which vaccines your child needs for the 2010-2011 school year, and/or when to get the vaccines, please contact your child's doctor or immunization clinic, or your city/county health department.

For information on where you can take your child to get free or reduced-cost vaccines, check with your city/county health department, or call 2-1-1 Texas. This is a three-digit toll free number that provides information on health and social services for your area.

You may also call the Immunization Branch Customer Service number (800) 252-9152 if you have questions or need more information about immunization requirements.

Sincerely,



Adolfo M. Valadez, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Division for Prevention and Preparedness Services

Enclosure