



FALLS CHURCH CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

July 17, 2006

Dear FCCPS Parents:

I want to make you aware of some changes in the Virginia law requiring immunizations for all school children. The biggest change is that as of July 1, 2006, all children entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade must have a booster tetanus-containing vaccine, if at least five years have passed since his or her last dose.

Other changes pertaining to dosages and schedules for hepatitis and polio vaccines also took effect July 1, 2006. The enclosed informational sheet from the Virginia Board of Health outlines those changes for you in bold.

If you have questions, please contact your family physician. You may also contact the Virginia Division of Immunization at 1-800-568-1929.

Sincerely,

Lois F. Berlin, Ed. D.  
Superintendent



## SCHOOL & DAY CARE MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Documentary proof shall be provided of adequate age appropriate immunization with the prescribed number of doses of vaccine indicated below for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care center, nursery school, family day care home or developmental center. Vaccines must be administered in accordance with the harmonized schedule of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Family Physicians and must be administered within spacing and age requirements.

**Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or Tdap)** .A minimum of 3 doses. A child must have at least one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the fourth birthday. If the child has received six doses of DTaP or DTP before the fourth birthday, additional doses are contraindicated. DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically exempt from the pertussis containing vaccine (DTaP or DTP). Adult Td is required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. **Effective July 1, 2006, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine.**

**Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine** .This vaccine is required **ONLY** for children up to 60 months of age. A primary series consists of either 2 or 3 doses (depending on the manufacturer) followed by a booster dose at age 12-15 months. However, the child's current age and not the number of prior doses received govern the number of doses required. Unvaccinated children between the ages of 15 and 60 months are only required to have one dose of vaccine.

**Hepatitis B Vaccine** .A complete series of 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine is required for all children. However, the FDA has approved a 2-dose schedule **ONLY** for adolescents 11-15 years of age **AND ONLY when the Merck Brand (RECOMBIVAX HB) Adult Formulation Hepatitis B Vaccine** is used. The 2 RECOMBIVAX HB Adult doses must be separated by a minimum of 4 months. If the 3-dose hepatitis B vaccine schedule is used, there should be at least 1 month spacing between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd doses and 4 months spacing between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses.

**Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine** .A minimum of 2 measles, 1 mumps, and 1 rubella. (Most children receive 2 doses of each because the vaccine usually administered is the combination vaccine MMR). First dose must be administered at age 12 months (365 days) or older. If first dose is administered before 12 months of age, the dose does not count and must be repeated. Second dose of measles vaccine does not have to be administered until age 4-6 years (usually at entry to kindergarten) but can be administered at any time after the minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2. The minimum interval is 4 weeks (28 days).

**Pneumococcal (PCV) Vaccine:** Two to four doses, dependent on age at first dose, of pneumococcal 7-valent conjugate vaccine for children less than two years of age.

**Polio Vaccine** .A minimum of 3 doses of all IPV or all OPV polio vaccine. If a child has had only three doses of polio vaccine, one dose must have been administered on or after the fourth birthday. However, a child who has received four doses of any combination of IPV or OPV polio vaccine before the fourth birthday is adequately immunized and does not need a dose after the fourth birthday.

**Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine** .All susceptible children born on and after January 1, 1997, shall be required to have a dose of chickenpox vaccine not earlier than the age of 12 months (365 days).

**NOTE:** *The 4-day grace period for administration of vaccines does not apply to MMR vaccine or Varicella vaccine.*

*For further information, please consult The State Board of Health's Regulations for the Immunization of School Children or call the Division of Immunization at 1-800-568-1929 (in state only) or 804-864-8055.*