

Health Care Providers



REFERENCE

Health and Safety Code, Division 105, Part 2, Chapter 1, Sections 120325-120380; California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 8, Sections 6000-6075

BACKGROUND

Children must have required immunizations before they can attend school or child care in California.¹ Parents must present their child's Immunization Record to school or child care staff as proof of immunization prior to admission. Health care providers are required to give or update the parent's copy of the child's Immunization Record whenever these immunizations are administered. Children who have not completed all immunizations will be admitted conditionally if they are up-to-date (no doses currently due), provided they obtain the next immunizations when they are due.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY (K-12)¹

Polio	4 doses at any age , but 3 doses are enough if at least one was given on or after: – the 4th birthday ² for children aged 4–6 years entering kindergarten. – the 2nd birthday ² for children aged 7 years and older.
DTP/DTaP/DT/Td³	5 doses at any age , but 4 doses are enough for first entry of children 4–6 years old if at least one dose was given on or after the 4th birthday. ² After the 7th birthday, 4 doses at any age , but 3 doses are enough if at least one dose was given on or after the 2nd birthday. ²
Td Booster	1 dose is recommended but not required for 7th grade entry.
MMR⁴	2 doses , both given on or after 1st birthday ² , for kindergarten entry. 2 doses , both given on or after 1st birthday ² , for 7th grade entry. 1 dose must be on or after 1st birthday ² , for grades 1–6, 8–12. A second dose is recommended.
Hepatitis B	3 doses at any age for kindergarten entry. 3 doses at any age or 2 doses of 2-dose formulation⁵ for 7th grade entry.
Varicella	1 dose , for kindergarten entry. ⁶ 1 or 2 doses for out-of-state transfer students. ^{6,7}

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE ENTRY¹

Age of Child	Number of Doses Required
Under 2 months	None Required
2–3 months	1 Polio, 1 DTP/DTaP/DT ³ , 1 Hib, 1 Hepatitis B
4–5 months	2 Polio, 2 DTP/DTaP/DT ³ , 2 Hib, 2 Hepatitis B
6–14 months	2 Polio, 3 DTP/DTaP/DT ³ , 2 Hib, 2 Hepatitis B
15–17 months	3 Polio, 3 DTP/DTaP/DT ³ , 2 Hepatitis B, 1 MMR and 1 Hib (both must be given on or after the first birthday ²)
18 months–5 years	3 Polio, 4 DTP/DTaP/DT ³ , 3 Hepatitis B, 1 MMR and 1 Hib ⁸ (both must be given on or after the first birthday ²), and 1 Varicella ⁶

NOTES



- ¹ The law allows permanent or temporary exemptions for medical reasons or if immunizations are contrary to the beliefs of the parent or guardian. (Personal beliefs exemptions are handled at school/child care.) For medical contraindications, please give parents a signed note specifying the reason for and duration of the exemption so they can submit it to the school or child care facility. For exemptions for mumps or rubella vaccines because the child had the disease, you must note that there is laboratory evidence of immunity.
- ² While receipt of the dose on/after the birthday indicated remains the standard, receipt of the dose up to (and including) 4 days before the birthday will satisfy the school and child care entry immunization requirement.
- ³ For a child under 7 years of age who has never received any pertussis doses, please give parents a signed note that pertussis vaccine is medically contraindicated. Pertussis vaccine is not required for children 7 years of age and older.
- ⁴ Mumps vaccine is not required for those 7 years of age and older. For kindergarten and 7th grade entrants, one dose may be any measles-containing vaccine, although MMR vaccine usually will be used for both doses.
- ⁵ 2-dose adolescent/adult (10mcg Recombivax) hepatitis B formulation fulfills this requirement only if provider documentation indicates 2-dose formulation was used for both doses and both doses were given at age 11–15 years.
- ⁶ If you are reasonably certain a child had chickenpox disease, document in patient chart and check the "had disease" box on the yellow immunization record, indicating the name of your practice/clinic. This will satisfy the varicella requirement. If uncertain, give varicella vaccine.
- ⁷ 2 doses are needed if varicella vaccine is not given until after the 13th birthday.
- ⁸ The Hib requirement applies only to children under age 4 years and 6 months.

For more information, or for free supplies of the California Immunization Record, please call the Immunization Program at your local health department.