



GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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September 9, 2019

Honorable Racquel Berry-Benjamin
Commissioner
Department of Education
No. 1834 Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: **VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY**

(2019-2020 School Year)

The Virgin Islands Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-1 states " all children registering for kindergarten and for any public, parochial or private schools must have a valid certificate of immunization for such diseases as Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Measles, Poliomyelitis, and all other diseases as are required by the standard listing issued annually by the Commissioner of Health."

Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-2 states " No principal or other person in charge of a kindergarten or other school shall knowingly admit or retain any pupil who has not submitted acceptable evidence of immunization according to the schedule specified by the Commissioner of Health, except even when there are exemptions as herein stated. "

The following immunizations are **required** for school entry in the United States Virgin Islands for the school year 2019-2020:

**Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps,
Rubella, Varicella, and Meningococcal**

- **One (1) dose of Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) is required for children 11 years of age and above (eligibility for vaccination will be determined by health care provider).**

- Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine are required for children in kindergarten through the 10th grade-both new and existing students who are entering/registering/repeating (eligibility for vaccination will be determined by health care provider).
- One (1) dose of Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) for children 11 to 15 years of age, (eligibility to be determined by healthcare provider). A second dose of Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) will be required for children 16 to 18 years of age, (eligibility to be determined by healthcare provider)
- Please note that in the 2019 -2020 school year, two (2) doses of varicella vaccine will be required for children in kindergarten through 11th grade.

For more information concerning the number of doses recommended based upon the child's age and immunization history, please refer to the attached 2019 "Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years and Younger".

- Before being issued an immunization clearance form for school registration or being admitted to school, all children shall receive the required vaccine(s) (and total number of doses,) at the minimum age recommended in the attached immunization schedule; however, for each child, eligibility to receive the required vaccine will be determined by the clinic Nurse or healthcare provider.
- Any child who received the immunization clearance form at the time of the clinic visit but have not completed the required vaccines series (due to the time intervals between doses, must return to the clinic or their healthcare provider to complete the required vaccine series by the vaccination date(s) indicated and documented by the immunization provider in the child's immunization record.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccines required for school entry, please call the Department of Health MCH Clinics in St. Thomas/St. John at (340) 777-8804 and St. Croix at (340) 514-6836.

Please note: Exemptions may be granted for school-aged children based on the principles and teachings of a recognized religious organization/church or if the vaccines/medicinal agents are medically contraindicated (please see VI Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-3 &116-4).

Sincerely,

Nicole A. C-Symus, 9/12/19

for

Justa Encarnacion
Commissioner of Health

Date

Pc: Principals, Administrators, and School Nurses

Table 1

Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for ages 18 years or younger United States, 2019

These recommendations must be read with the Notes that follow. For those who fall behind or start late, provide catch-up vaccination at the earliest opportunity as indicated by the green bars in Table 1. To determine minimum intervals between doses, see the catch-up schedule (Table 2). School entry and adolescent vaccine age groups are shaded in gray.

Vaccine	Birth	1 mo	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	9 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	19-23 mos	2-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	11-12 yrs	13-15 yrs	16 yrs	17-18 yrs
Hepatitis B (HepB)	1 st dose	2 nd dose					3 rd dose										
Rotavirus (RV) RV1 (2-dose series); RV5 (3-dose series)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	See Notes												
Diphtheria, tetanus, & acellular pertussis (DTaP: <7 yrs)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose		4 th dose					5 th dose					
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	See Notes		3 rd or 4 th dose, See Notes										
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose		4 th dose										
Inactivated poliovirus (IPV; <18 yrs)			1 st dose	2 nd dose			3 rd dose					4 th dose					
Influenza (IIV) or Influenza (LAIV)							Annual vaccination 1 or 2 doses					Annual vaccination 1 or 2 doses		Annual vaccination 1 dose only		Annual vaccination 1 dose only	
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)					See Notes		1 st dose					2 nd dose					
Varicella (VAR)							1 st dose					2 nd dose					
Hepatitis A (HepA)					See Notes		2-dose series, See Notes										
Meningococcal (MenACWY-D ≥9 mos; MenACWY-CRM ≥2 mos)							See Notes							1 st dose		2 nd dose	
Tetanus, diphtheria, & acellular pertussis (Tdap: ≥7 yrs)														Tdap			
Human papillomavirus (HPV)														See Notes			
Meningococcal B														See Notes			
Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)														See Notes			

Range of recommended ages for all children
 Range of recommended ages for catch-up immunization
 Range of recommended ages for certain high-risk groups
 Range of recommended ages for non-high-risk groups that may receive vaccine, subject to individual clinical decision-making
 No recommendation