

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

State law requires that each student entering school be current with immunizations on the first day of school. Please provide your child's immunization record when you complete this enrollment packet. A copy of your child's record will be made and the original returned to you.

Because of changes in the immunization laws, please check to see that your child is up-to-date on all immunizations. **Your child will not be allowed to enter school without being current on all immunizations.**

DPT	4 doses required. If the last dose was not given on or after the 4 th birthday, a booster dose is required. Most children will have 5 doses.
Tetanus Booster	A tetanus booster is required 5 years after initial series is complete. Then every 10 years.
Polio	3 doses are required. If the last dose was not given on or after the 4 th birthday, a booster dose is required. Most children will have 5 doses.
MMR	2 doses are required.
Hepatitis B	3 doses are required.
Varicella	2 doses of varicella (Var) vaccine or history of chickenpox disease. (Required for all children entering kindergarten, all 6th grade students, and all children changing school district.)
HIB	4 doses are required.

Required for all children 11-18 years of age who are changing school districts or who are enrolled in 6th grade:

+1 dose of meningococcal (MCV4 or MPSV4) vaccine.

+1 dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine
(If 5 years have passed since last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine – DtaP, or DT)

You are eligible for vaccines at the Health Department if your health insurance doesn't cover vaccines. You may call the Berrien County Health Department main phone number at 926-7121 for other times and locations in Berrien County.

If immunizations are against your belief, please contact the Curriculum Office at 269-926-3122.

Health Department Immunization Clinic
Berrien County Health Department
769 Pipestone
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: (269) 927-5638

It is the policy of the St. Joseph Public School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Key Points Regarding Claiming a Nonmedical Waiver for Michigan Schools and Licensed Childcares

Michigan recently modified the administrative rules that change how nonmedical waivers for immunizations will be processed for school/childcare programs. The new rule went into effect on January 1, 2015.

With Michigan having one of the highest waiver rates in the country, a proactive approach has been established to help inform everyone regarding the benefits of vaccinations and the risks of disease. Some counties in Michigan have waiver rates as high as 20.7%. This means that more than 20% of the students in those counties haven't gotten all their vaccines. Some school buildings have even higher waiver rates. The hope is that the new rule will help answer any questions/concerns one may have regarding immunizations.

Key Points

- The new rule applies to all children who are enrolled in a public or private:
 - Licensed childcare, preschool, and Head Start programs
 - Kindergarten, 7th grade, and any newly enrolled student into the school district
- The new rule does not take away your right to obtain a nonmedical waiver.
- Nonmedical waivers (religious or philosophical (other) objections) will need to be obtained from a county health department; the schools/childcare centers will not have them.
- Parents/Guardians must follow these steps when requesting a nonmedical waiver:
 - Contact your county health department for an appointment to speak with a health educator.
 - During the visit, there will be an opportunity to have a discussion about immunizations with the county health department staff.
 - If at the end of the visit, you request a nonmedical waiver for your child, you will receive a copy of the current, certified (stamped and signed) State of Michigan Nonmedical Waiver Form.
 - Schools/childcare centers will only accept the current, official State of Michigan form (Current date: January 1, 2015).
 - Forms cannot be altered in any way (such as crossing information out).
 - Take completed, certified waiver form to your child's school or childcare center.
- If your child has a medical reason (a true contraindication or precaution) for not receiving a vaccine, a physician must sign the State of Michigan Medical Contraindication form; this form is available at your doctor's office (not the county health department).
- Based on the public health code, a child without either an up-to-date immunization record, a certified nonmedical waiver form or a physician signed medical waiver form can be excluded from school/childcare.

For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/immunize > then click on *Local Health Departments*> then click on *Immunization Waiver Information*. There is a list of all the county health departments on this website, along with their addresses and phone numbers.

January 13, 2015