



School Immunization Requirements

Vaccine Type	Minimum Number of Doses Required Per Grade		
	Kindergarten	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-12
DTaP/DTP/DT/Td*	4	4	4
IPV/OPV*	3	3	3
MMR	2	2	2
Td Booster (Tdap is recommended)	0	0	1

*One dose of DTaP and IPV must be given after the child's 4th birthday.

School immunization requirements are detailed in Montana Code Annotated 20-5-403. Administrative Rules of Montana require immunizations to be recorded on the "Certificate of Immunization (HES-101)" as outlined in ARM 37.114.708. The HES-101 must be supported by adequate documentation as defined in ARM 37.114.703. State law requires the HES-101 to follow the pupil from school to school. Within 30 days after a transferring pupil ceases attendance at the school of origin, the school shall retain a certified copy for the permanent record and send the original immunization records for the pupil to the school district to which the pupil transfers.

Pupils less than seven years of age that received DT vaccine must have a medical exemption for the pertussis (whooping cough) component of the vaccine. ARM 37.114.705

For catch up of children lacking DTaP, in grades K-12, who are 7 years of age or greater where:

1) The number of doses at age less than 1 year are unknown or zero; a total to equal 3 doses of diphtheria, tetanus containing vaccines must be achieved using Td. A single dose of Tdap vaccine may be used in completion of the series;

2) When the number of doses at age less than 1 year are one or more, a total to equal 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus containing vaccines must be achieved using Td. A single dose of Tdap vaccine may be used in completion of the series.

One dose of MMR must be given after the first birthday and dose 2 given prior to Kindergarten entry. All new enrolled students must have 2 MMRs prior to attending school, unless the student has a conditional enrollment, religious exemption, or a medical exemption.

Td Booster is required for those students prior to entering 7th grade. If a student has not received a Td/Tdap after 7th grade, the student must receive one dose of Td/Tdap to complete school requirement.

All new enrolled students grades K-12 must meet the age appropriate immunization requirements before attending school unless an exemption or conditional is in place.

Conditional Attendance—ARM 37.114.710

If a child has not completed the minimum vaccination series required by Montana Law, a Conditional Attendance Form (HES 103) should be completed and attached to the Certificate of immunization Form (HES-101). If the pupil has received at least one or more doses of the required vaccine(s), he/she can conditionally attend until the next dose is due. In order to remain in school, the pupil must continue to receive all remaining doses as specified on the conditional form. If the pupil fails to complete the immunization(s) within the time period indicated, he/she must either qualify for and claim an exemption or be excluded immediately from school by the school administrator or that person's designee.

Medical Exemption—ARM 37.114.715

Any student seeking to attend school is not required to have any immunizations which are medically contraindicated. A written and signed statement from a physician that an immunization is medically contraindicated will exempt the students from the immunization requirements that are deemed necessary by the physician. Chiropractors, naturopathic doctors, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants may not sign off on medicals exemptions. Only a physician (MD or DO) licensed to practice medicine in any jurisdiction of the U.S. or Canada.

In August the Immunization Program revised the medical exemption form. On this form the physician will need to check if this is a contraindication or a precaution for immunizations. Then he or she will check the box that has the reasoning for the exemption. A physician may elect to submit a letter in place of the medical exemption form provided the following are included:

1. Which specific immunization(s) are contraindicated.
2. The period of time during which the immunization is contraindicated. (Permanent or Temporary exemption. If, temporary make sure the end date is given.)
3. A medical reasoning to why the immunization(s) are contraindicated. Medical exemptions are routinely reviewed by local and state health officials. Additional documentation supporting exemption may be required.
4. When deemed necessary by a physician, the results of immunity testing can be performed for student's entering K-12. The tests must indicate serological evidence of immunity and must be performed by a CLIA approved lab.

The written medical exemption and immunity testing results must be attached to the HES-101 and placed in student's school record.

Religious Exemption—ARM 37.114.716

In schools K-12 a claim of exemption from immunization requirements on religious grounds must be notarized annually and maintained on the Religious Exemption form (HES-113). The form must be provided to the school prior to each school year by the student's parent/legal guardian, unless the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated, the student may claim the exemption. The original copy of the religious exemption must be kept by the school as part of the student's school record.

If a student has contracted a disease or is exposed to a disease, the student may be excluded from school by the local health officer or the state department until the excluding authority feels that there is no longer a risk of contracting or transmitting that disease.