



SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Dr. John B. Gordon III, Superintendent
100 North Main Street
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May 4, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please read carefully as the following information applies to rising Kindergarten, 7th and 12th grade students. To align with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, the 2020 General Assembly passed House Bill 1090 which amends the minimum vaccination requirements for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care centers, nursery schools, family home day care, or developmental center.

This legislation becomes effective July 1, 2021, and amends the *Code of Virginia* [§ 32.1-46.A.4](#) to require:

- Two doses of properly spaced human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (for males and females). The first dose shall be administered before the child enters the seventh grade.
- Two or three properly spaced doses of rotavirus vaccine, depending on the manufacturer, for children up to eight months of age.
- Two properly spaced doses of hepatitis A vaccine (HAV). The first dose shall be administered at age 12 months or older.
- Two properly spaced doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). The first dose shall be administered prior to entry to the seventh grade. The second dose shall be administered prior to entry to the twelfth grade.

To assist families and school personnel, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has created a list of frequently asked questions (attached).

Questions should be directed to Marshall Vogt, Epidemiologist, Virginia Department of Health, at Marshall.Vogt@vdh.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 864-8076, or Tracy White, School Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, at Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 786-8671.

A copy of the 2021 HPV to parents of rising 7th graders from Dr. M. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner, is also attached.

Sincerely,

Dr. John B. Gordon III
Superintendent

2021 Childhood Vaccine School-Requirements House Bill 1090

The Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 1090 which effectively requires Virginia's immunization recommendations and requirements to coincide with the recommendations of the Centers for Disability Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). To access VDH's immunizations resources please visit:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/>

What are the changes regarding kindergarten school entry vaccination requirements?

- Before children enter kindergarten they now need two properly spaced doses of the hepatitis A vaccine (HAV). The first dose should be administered at age 12 months or older. The HAV vaccine requirement is an addition to the existing kindergarten vaccine requirements according to the ACIP vaccine schedule. Prior to the law going into effect children entering kindergarten were not required to have the HAV vaccine.

With the new requirements, are students in 1st grade and above required to receive the HAV vaccine doses?

- No, rising 1st grade students and above will be considered "grandfathered" and will not be required to receive the HAV vaccine doses.

If a 1st grade student comes to Virginia from out of state, will they be required to have the HAV vaccine doses for school entry?

- No, the 1st grader is not required to have the Hep A series, however, it is recommended.

If a Kindergarten student presents with only one dose of the HAV vaccine on the 1st day of school, can the student receive a conditional enrollment?

- Yes, the student can receive a conditional enrollment as long as the student has received the 1st dose of the HAV 2-dose series. The conditional enrollment period is 180 days.

What are the changes regarding 7th-grade school entry vaccination requirements?

- Children entering 7th grade are required to present proof of their first dose of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, one booster of the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine (Tdap), and their first dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). All are required for both boys and girls before entering the 7th grade.

My child is entering the 12th grade, what vaccines will they need to enter school?

- If your child is entering 12th grade, they will need to have a booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY).

If a rising 12th-grade student has already received a dose of the MenACWY at the age of 11, is the student required to have the second dose of the vaccine, or has the requirement been met?

- The 12th grade student would still need the MenACWY at 16 years of age or older, regardless of the MenACWY dose received at 11 years of age.

Can a student be conditionally enrolled if they do not have the required vaccinations before school starts?

- In order for a student to be conditionally enrolled, the student must have proof of having received at least one (1) dose of each of the required immunizations and have a schedule on file to receive the remainder of the required doses within 90 days (or in the case of hepatitis A and hepatitis B, 180 days). Therefore, if the student has not received the 1st dose of the meningococcal vaccine, the student is not eligible to receive a conditional enrollment.

With the new requirements, are rising 8th-11th grade students, required to receive two doses of MenACWY?

- No, rising 8th-11th grade students will be considered "grandfathered" and will not be required to receive the 7th grade MenACWY dose.

If a child without any high risk conditions received a dose of MenACWY (Menactra, MenQuadfi or Menveo) vaccine at age 10 years, does the child need to be revaccinated at age 11-12 years?

- No. ACIP considers a dose of MenACWY given to a 10-year-old child to be valid for the first dose in the adolescent series. Doses given before age 10 years should not be counted. The child should receive the second (booster) dose at age 16 years as usual.

If a student is missing the HPV vaccine, will they be allowed to attend school?

- A parent or guardian has the right to decide if a child receives the HPV vaccine. A student is allowed to attend school and be missing HPV. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with your healthcare provider.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

P O BOX 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner

TTY 7-1-1 OR
1-800-828-1120

February 5, 2021

Dear Parents of Rising Seventh Graders:

Speaking as the Virginia State Health Commissioner and a parent, I value the many decisions you make every day to protect your child's health. I am sharing information about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. This vaccine prevents 6 types of cancer in both men and women.

The Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommend this vaccine for children at age 11 or 12. Giving the vaccine at this age is the best defense against certain cancers. For more information, I have included our HPV poster, you can visit our website www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/.

As your child grows, it is important to schedule a health check-up for them every year. HPV, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), and Meningococcal, are required vaccines for children between 11 and 12 years of age in Virginia. This means children receive these vaccines going into the 7th grade. All of these are safe and help stop future disease from happening.

As a parent or guardian, you have the right to decide if your child receives the HPV vaccine. I encourage you to discuss this with your healthcare provider. Please remember to give your child's vaccine record to his or her school.

Should you have any questions please contact Janaye Oliver, Adolescent Immunization Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Health, by telephone at (804) 864-8073 or by email at Janaye.Oliver@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner



www.vdh.state.va.us

TAKE A SHOT AT CANCER!

Protect your child from HPV-related cancers by vaccinating. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) spreads easily, and most people don't know they have it.



90%
of cervical cancers are caused by HPV



70%
of mouth & throat cancers are caused by HPV

The HPV vaccine protects your child's future. The **vaccine...**

Is recommended with other routine adolescent vaccinations



Meningitis HPV Tdap

&

Prevents

6

types of **cancer**

HPV can be prevented in both girls and boys through **vaccination**.
Boys and girls should complete the vaccine series by age **13**.



**7th
Grade**



• **SAFE** • **EFFECTIVE** • **LONG-LASTING** •

Talk to your child's provider today about preventing **cancer!**

www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/

www.cdc.gov/HPV

VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.