

## MS School Immunization Laws

In order to enroll in any public or private kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school in Mississippi, a student must provide the school with a:

**Certificate of Immunization Compliance (Form 121) - MUST be signed by the District Health Officer, a physician, or a nurse.**

**Or a**

**Certificate of Medical Exemption (Form 122) - is not computer generated. This form MUST be signed by the District Health Officer (refer to the Medical Exemption section for specific information.)**

The list of immunizations required is specified by the State Health Officer and is promulgated at least annually as directed by state statute. All vaccines are to be given at the appropriate age and intervals according to ACIP recommendations. The required vaccines are listed below.

### MS School Entry Immunization Requirements 2012-2013<sup>a</sup>

Vaccine/antigen	No. of doses
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) <sup>b</sup>	5 <sup>c</sup>
Polio (IPV)	4 <sup>d</sup>
Hepatitis B	3
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 <sup>e</sup>
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 <sup>f</sup>
Tdap	1 <sup>g</sup>

**a-** All children entering a Mississippi school (any grade) for the first time will be required to have the above listed immunizations. **This includes Pre-K 4 year olds – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**b-** Children entering a Mississippi school after their 7th birthday, who do not meet the above DTaP requirements, will need at least 3 total doses of diphtheria/tetanus containing vaccine (Td). Tdap should be used as one of the three diphtheria/tetanus containing vaccines (preferably as the first of the 3 doses) for children age 10 years and older. Refer to the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) catch up schedule at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/default.htm>.

**c-** If the 4th dose is received on or after the 4th birthday, a 5th dose is not required.

**d-** The final dose in the series should be administered at age  $\geq 4$  years of age, regardless of number of previous doses.

**e-** MMR vaccine may only be waived if there is a documented physician's diagnosis of previous infection with measles, mumps and rubella disease or a serological confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella.

**f-** Varicella vaccine will be waived for evidence of past infection, including past history of chickenpox or a serological confirmation of immunity to chickenpox.

**g- Beginning 2012-2013 school year all students entering, advancing to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, transferring into 7<sup>th</sup> grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough (pertussis) booster, Tdap immunization, before entry into school in the fall. Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday meets the new school requirement.**