

Tipton County Board of Education
1560 Hwy 51
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-7148

To: Parents/Guardians of **New Enrollees (other than K or 7th grade)**
Parents/Guardians of **Children with Special Exemptions**

Date: February 10, 2010

Subject: NEW STATE IMMUNIZATION RULES AND CERTIFICATES

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) has issued new immunization rules and is issuing a new Official Certificate that is required for entry into school effective July 1, 2010. All newly required vaccines are routinely recommended for all children. Most children should have already received them.

- There will now be only **one** official TDOH certificate of immunization that must be filled out by medical providers for delivery to schools prior to entry of their child into pre-school, pre-k, kindergarten, 7th grade, or as a new student. This form will only be available from a private healthcare provider or local health department.
- Children with special exemptions are subject to the requirements listed below.

Summary: Tennessee Immunization Requirements (TDOH 1200-14-1-29)

New Enrollees in a TN School in Grades *other than* K or 7th

- Current immunization requirements:
 - ✓ Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTaP, or DT if appropriate)
 - ✓ Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2 doses of each, usually given together as MMR)
- New **additional** immunization requirements:
 - ✓ Hepatitis B (HBV): previously only for kindergarten, 7th grade entry
 - ✓ Poliomyelitis (IPV or OPV): final dose on or after the 4th birthday now required
 - ✓ Varicella (2 doses or history of disease): *previously only one dose was required*

Children with medical or religious exemption to requirements:

- **Medical:** Healthcare provider must indicate which specific vaccines are medically exempted (because of risk of harm) on the **new** form. Other vaccines remain required.
- **Religious:** Requires only a signed statement by the parent/guardian that vaccination conflicts with their religious tenets or practices. *If* documentation of a health examination is required, it must be noted by the health care provider on the immunization certificate. In that case, the provider may explain the absence of immunization information by checking that the parent has obtained a religious exemption.

If you have additional questions, please contact your school nurse.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hogg, RN, BSN
Director of Health Services
Le Bonheur, Healthy Schools-Tipton Co.
Tipton County Board of Education
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