

Dear Parents:

The following information is regarding the **Immunization for Children in Alabama**. Each child enrolled in day care, public or private school in Alabama must have a valid Alabama Certificate of Immunization on file at the facility that they attend. The certificate may be obtained from the physician or clinic that administers the vaccine or may be completed by any county health department in the State if the parent presents a vaccine record from the provider. For students who are moving to Alabama, out-of-state vaccine records must be transferred to the Alabama Certificate of Immunization prior to day care or school entry. This may be accomplished by taking a vaccine record from the provider to the local county health department, or, if a physician in Alabama has been chosen by the family, the record may be transposed by the physician.

The State of Alabama does not recognize philosophical, moral, or ethical exemption from vaccination. A medical exemption may be issued by a physician or an Alabama Certificate of Religious Exemption may be obtained from the local county health department. These completed forms must be kept on file at the facility as well.

Attendees of day care must be age-appropriately vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, polio, and chickenpox.

Children attending 5 year-old-kindergarten through 12th grade must have had 5 doses of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine (4 if the 4th dose was received after the 4th birthday) and 4 doses of polio vaccine (3 if the 3rd dose was received after the 4th birthday). Booster doses of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid vaccine must be given every 5-10 years after the preschool booster. Children in these grades should also have received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine and 1 dose each of mumps and rubella vaccine, usually administered as 2 doses of MMR vaccine. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for kindergarten entry became a requirement in 2001. This requirement will increase by one grade cohort until fall 2013, when varicella documentation will be required for all children, kindergarten through 12th grade. Positive test for varicella immunity or documentation of chickenpox disease is acceptable in lieu of varicella vaccine.

While conducting the annual School Entry Survey, it was discovered that your child lacked the item(s) marked below. Please bring in a revised form indicating your child's updated immunization history. Your child will not be allowed to enter school for in August without a current Alabama Certificate of Immunization (*Blue Slip*). The *Blue Slip* must be turned in to the Admissions Office no later than the first day of attendance.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning required vaccines or certificates, please call your physician or local county health department or refer to the Rules of the State Board of Health Bureau of Preventive Health Services, Chapter 420-6-1, Immunization of School Children General Provisions, and the Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-4 and Section 16-30-5.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Turner Floyd

Lisa Turner Floyd
Admissions Director