

# West Virginia Immunization Requirements for New School Enterers

State law and rules<sup>1</sup> require that all children entering school in West Virginia for the first time in grades K-12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and hepatitis B unless properly medically exempted<sup>2</sup>. The table below outlines immunization requirements as most commonly met.<sup>3</sup> The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health recommends that vaccine doses administered 4 days or fewer before the minimum interval or age should be considered valid.

Vaccine	Requirement	Provisional Enrollment	Additional Information
DTaP/DTP Td/Tdap	Before admission, four doses required. One dose must be after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 8 months to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three doses only for children completing primary series at age 7 years and older.</li> <li>• Children exempted from the pertussis component of DTaP vaccine should receive DT vaccine instead, or if past 7<sup>th</sup> birthday, Td / Tdap vaccine, as applicable.</li> </ul>
Polio (IPV)	Before admission, three doses required. One dose must be after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 90 days to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If polio immunization series included both OPV and IPV, then a total of 4 doses are required.</li> </ul>
Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)	Before admission, two doses required. First dose must be after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 30 days to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doses should be a minimum of 28 days apart.</li> </ul>
Varicella	Before admission, two doses required. First dose must be after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday.	After one dose, children <b>less than 13 years of age</b> may be allowed up to 90 days to obtain 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose; children aged <b>13 years and older</b> may be allowed up to 30 days to obtain the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children <b>less than 13 years of age</b> must have a minimum interval of 12 weeks between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses.</li> <li>• Children aged <b>13 years and older</b> may receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose 28 days after the first dose.</li> <li>• Immunity may also be demonstrated through the legal guardian's written or verbal attestation of varicella (chickenpox) disease.</li> </ul>
Hepatitis B	Before admission, three doses required. Last dose must be after the age of 6 months.	After one dose, student may be allowed up to 4 months to complete the series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final dose is not valid if administered before 24 weeks / 6 months of age.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> See WV Code §16-3-4 and 64CSR95 for further information.

<sup>2</sup> Medical exemptions must be requested by a physician who has treated or examined the child and be reviewed and approved by the local health officer in the county in which the child attends school. Requests for exemptions must be based on current standards of immunization practice and include the following information: the vaccine(s) being exempted, the specific medical reason for the exemption, whether the exemption is temporary or permanent, and, if temporary, when the exemption should be reevaluated. West Virginia State Law does not allow for non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

<sup>3</sup> Occasionally, based on product used or the age at which a child is being immunized, deviations from these requirements may be acceptable. Any deviation must be consistent with applicable, age appropriate immunization schedules found at <http://www.cdc.gov> and searching under "Immunization Schedules".