

Nebraska School Immunization Requirements

Nebraska law requires that students provide documentation of all required immunizations before attending school. Students who have not completed all required immunizations may be provisionally enrolled if they have received at least one dose of each required vaccine and continue their immunization schedule as rapidly as medically feasible. Proof of continued progress toward completion is required.

Students may be exempt from Nebraska's school immunization requirements by submitting one of the following:

- **Medical Exemption:** A statement signed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner indicating that the required immunization is medically inappropriate for the student or a member of the student's household.
- **Religious Exemption:** A notarized affidavit stating that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized religion or with the students or families sincerely held religious beliefs.

The specific vaccines required for school attendance vary based on the student's age and grade level.

Required immunizations include:

- **Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis [Whooping Cough]) – 1 dose** (required for students entering 7th grade).
- **DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td – 3 doses, with at least one dose administered on or after the 4th birthday.**
- **Polio (IPV/OPV) – 3 doses.**
- **Hepatitis B – 3 doses.**
- **MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) or MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella) – 2 doses**, both administered on or after **12 months of age** and separated by **at least one month**.
- **Varicella (Chickenpox) – 2 doses** administered on or after **12 months of age**, or written documentation of a history of chickenpox from a parent, legal guardian, or health care provider.
- **Pneumococcal (PCV) – 4 doses** (required for children enrolled in licensed childcare and preschool programs, as age appropriate).

Vaccines Recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

In addition to the immunizations required for school attendance, the CDC recommends the following vaccines to help protect children and adolescents from serious diseases. Talk with your child's health care provider to determine which vaccines are appropriate.

Meningococcal Vaccines

MenACWY (Menveo®, MenQuadfi®, or Penbraya®)

The CDC recommends:

- **1 dose at age 11–12 years**
- **A booster dose at age 16 years**

MenB (Bexsero® or Trumenba®)

The CDC recommends that adolescents and young adults **16–23 years of age** (preferably ages **16–18**) discuss MenB vaccination with their health care provider through shared clinical decision-making.

Meningococcal disease is uncommon but can be life-threatening. It can progress rapidly and may cause meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) or bloodstream infections that can result in permanent disability or death. The bacteria spread through close contact, such as coughing, kissing, or sharing drinks and eating utensils.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine (Gardasil® 9)

The HPV vaccine helps protect against several cancers caused by human papillomavirus infection, including cervical, throat, anal, penile, vulvar, and vaginal cancers.

The CDC recommends:

- **2 doses** for children who begin the series at **9–14 years of age**, with the second dose given **6–12 months after the first**.
- **3 doses** for those who begin the series at **15 years of age or older**, or for certain individuals with weakened immune systems.

Hepatitis A Vaccine

The CDC recommends **2 doses** of the Hepatitis A vaccine, given **at least 6 months apart**.

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. It is commonly spread through close personal contact or by consuming contaminated food or water. Vaccination is the best way to prevent Hepatitis A infection.

Southeast District Health Department
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Reminder:

For more information on immunizations, contact your Health Care Provider, Southeast District Health Department, or www.cdc.gov