

P4-1.2 Immunization and Tests

A parent or guardian, when registering any student in the Woonsocket Education Department, must furnish evidence that he or she has been immunized against certain diseases. This shall be in accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunizations and Communicable Disease Testing in Preschool, School, Colleges or University (R23-1-IMM).

- a. Children Entering Pre-Kindergarten shall furnish evidence of being immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b, pneumococcal disease, varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis A, and rotavirus.
- b. Children Entering Kindergarten through Grade 6 shall furnish evidence of being immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, meningitis, and varicella (chicken pox).
- c. Children Entering Grade 7-12 shall furnish evidence of being immunized against, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, meningitis, HPV, and varicella.

In lieu of vaccination(s), a parent or guardian may provide a medical exemption form from a licensed healthcare provider stating that the child is exempt from a specific vaccine in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidelines, American Academy of Pediatrics. A parent may also present a religious exemption form which is a statement signed by a parent and the administrative head or designee of the school stating that the parent objects to immunization(s) on the grounds of religious beliefs.

Acceptable evidence for having completed the specified immunizations shall consist of:

1. A certificate signed by a licensed healthcare provider
2. The permanent health record from the school previously attended by the student
3. The month, day and year for each immunization must be given.

In the circumstances where the parent or guardian cannot supply evidence for one or more of the required immunizations upon registration, such person shall provide the school with evidence of having begun to obtain the lacking immunizations by the date of school entrance and will receive a temporary exemption. When a parent or guardian has not complied with the requirements for immunizations within the time limits allowed, as specified in this policy, or who has not provided satisfactory evidence of such immunization, his or her child shall be excluded from school pending completion of required immunizations and provision of satisfactory written evidence of such completion.

[G.L. 16-38-2(a)]

[Rhode Island Department of Health Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunizations and Testing for Communicable Diseases (R23-1-IMM).]