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Opening of Schools

**STATE REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS NEEDED  
AT ALL GRADE LEVELS, PRE-KINDERGARTEN  
THROUGH TWELVE PRIOR TO SCHOOL ENTRY**

June 30, 2004

Children scheduled to enter pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for the 2004-2005 school year need to be properly immunized or they will not be allowed to enter school.

The state's school immunization program requires all students attending kindergarten through twelfth grade to receive a second dose of measles vaccine and the hepatitis B vaccine series (three doses). This requirement also applies to retainees in grades 7 through 12.

All children entering pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade must complete a hepatitis B vaccine series in addition to already required immunizations for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella.

All children entering, attending or transferring into pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade in Florida are required to have varicella (chicken pox) vaccine, or documentation of a history of varicella disease on DH Form 680.

Children may attend school if they are in the process of completing the hepatitis B series and have a valid temporary medical exemption form on file at the school. Only the Department of Health Certificate of Immunization, DH Form 680, can be accepted as verification for immunization compliance.

(MORE)

## Immunizations/add one

Parents are encouraged to contact their health care provider to schedule an appointment for children affected by the school immunization requirement. Required immunizations are covered under most health insurance policies.

Children whose parents cannot afford to pay for vaccines may receive immunizations under the Vaccines For Children program, which provides vaccines free of charge at all county health department centers.

For more information, contact the Special Immunization Program Office of the Department of Health at 786-845-0550.

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