

## School Immunization Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome back, students and parents. We want to remind you that vaccines are critical in keeping our children and our school community healthy.

**Kindergarten Requirements:** 4 doses of polio, 5 doses of DTaP, 2 doses of MMR, 3 doses of hepatitis B, and 1 dose of varicella (though 2 doses are strongly recommended) or evidence of past chicken pox infection. Your pediatrician should give your child their 4<sup>th</sup> Polio, 5<sup>th</sup> DTaP, and 2<sup>nd</sup> MMR at their kindergarten visit (age 4 to 6 years). The number of doses required for kindergarten entry may be different under certain circumstances. If you have any questions, talk to your school nurse.

**Middle School Recommendations:** At your child's 11 year check up, your child should receive a Tdap booster, meningitis vaccine, and HPV vaccine (officially recommended for girls, though it may become an official recommendation for boys in the near future). A second varicella vaccine may also be indicated for teenagers. If your child has not yet received them, hepatitis A and hepatitis B should also be given.

**College Requirements and Recommendations:** Most colleges require proof of 3 hepatitis B doses. A meningitis vaccine, if not already received, is indicated for college freshmen living in dorms due to their increased risk of this disease. Tdap booster and HPV are also recommended if they have not already been given. MMR vaccine is highly recommended because of recent outbreaks of mumps on college campuses. High school seniors that are unimmunized or under-immunized should consider bringing all of their vaccines up to date if they are considering study abroad or travel to developing countries in their futures. As well as routine recommendations, this includes a series of 2 hepatitis A vaccines if not previously received.

**DTaP and Tdap vaccines protect against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough).**

**MMR vaccines protects against measles, mumps, and rubella.**

**Varicella is chicken pox.**

**HPV is human papillomavirus.**

**Parents, are you vaccinated? Talk to your health care provider about adult vaccine recommendations. Have a healthy school year. Get vaccinated!**

*This information is provided by the Marin County Immunization Coalition.*

Reference: California Immunization Handbook

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/HandbookText.pdf>