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March 15, 2010

RE: Rescission of Tdap 7th Grade Vaccination Requirement

Dear Immunization Provider:

In early February 2010 the Immunization Division of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) notified healthcare providers and schools of required vaccinations for school attendance for the upcoming 2010 – 2011 school year. The notification included a new Tdap vaccine requirement for students entering or being retained in the seventh grade.

I am writing to let you know that DHEC will **not** require the Tdap vaccine for entry into seventh grade as previously planned. However, in keeping with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, we **strongly recommend** that parents have their adolescents immunized, but **will not require** it for school attendance at this time.

Budget forecasts now indicate that implementing and sustaining the Tdap requirement may not be possible this year and may create hardships for parents, school staff and healthcare providers. We will continue to work with providers across the state to encourage vaccine administration.

During late spring and throughout the summer months, checkups and physicals for sports and summer camps are a perfect opportunity to catch up preteens and teenagers with needed vaccines for this difficult to reach age group. The VAFAC Program covers all routinely recommended vaccines for VAFAC-eligible preteens and adolescents. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends several vaccines for this age group. **In addition to the Tdap booster**, please be sure the following CDC-recommended preteen/adolescent vaccines and catch-up vaccines are not missed:

- 1. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)**
- 2. Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4): 3 doses**
- 3. Catch up on second dose of varicella zoster vaccine (VZV)**

Contact the South Carolina Immunization Division at 800-277-4687 if you have questions. If you wish to speak with me directly, I welcome your call: 803-898-0720.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Smith, MN, BSN, RN
Director, Immunization Division

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REVISED: 2010-2011 SCHOOL AND DAY CARE LAW LETTER

March 12, 2010

Dear Immunization Provider:

In early February, 2010 the Immunization Division distributed a letter specifying the immunizations required for school and day care attendance for 2010-2011 school year. This letter contained requirements for Tdap vaccine for 7th grade students. This vaccine is no longer required, but **strongly recommended**. Therefore, in accordance with State Regulation 61-8, the enclosed "Schedule of Required Vaccinations, Screening and Immunizations for School Admittance" and "Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance" will be applicable for the **2010-2011 school year**. Changes from the 2009-2010 schedule include:

- 1) The addition of TENTH grade to the requirement for one (1) dose of varicella vaccine or positive history of disease.
- 2) The addition of SIXTH grade to the requirements for four (4) doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.
- 3) THREE (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. The final dose in the IPV (polio) series should be administered at age ≥ 4 years, regardless of the number of previous doses. **This requirement applies to those students entering 5 year old kindergarten.**

Details regarding these immunization requirements are outlined in the attached **2010-2011** schedules of required vaccines for school admittance and day care attendance.

PLEASE NOTE: *The child's class enrollment (not age) determines which required standards to use – Day Care or School. Day Care Requirements apply to children enrolled in Pre K, and 4K programs, and younger, even if attendance is in a school setting. School Requirements apply to children enrolled in 5 year old kindergarten through grade 12.*

Please communicate this information as extensively as you deem appropriate. Procedural and other questions may be directed to the Regional Immunization Program Manager for each Public Health Region as shown on the DHEC Immunization Webpage "contacts" tab @ <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/immunization/docs/contacts.pdf> or DHEC's Immunization Division in Columbia at 898-0460 or 1-800-277-4687 (1-800-27-SHOTS).

Sincerely,

Lisa F. Waddell, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner for Health Services

Susan A. Smith, MN, BSN, RN
Director, Immunization Division

Enclosure(s)



2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED VACCINATIONS, SCREENINGS, AND IMMUNIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL ADMITTANCE

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following schedule of required vaccinations, screenings, and immunizations necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades five year old kindergarten through twelve (5K-12).

Minimum Requirements:

<i>Vaccine for:</i>	<i>Grade Level Requirements:</i>	
	<i>Note: Grade level requirements apply to all students entering or retained in the grades specified.</i>	
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis	Grades 5K – 6	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTP-Hib, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. For unvaccinated children 7 years of age and older, three (3) doses of Td/Tdap complete the primary series.
	Grades 7 – 12	Three (3) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTP-Hib, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.
Polio	Grade 5K	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. The final dose in the IPV (polio) series should be administered at 4 years of age or older, regardless of the number of previous doses.
	Grades 1– 12	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. Students already enrolled in grades 1-12 are in compliance if: three (3) doses with one dose on or after the fourth birthday OR four (4) doses before the 4 th birthday.
Rubeola (Measles)	Grades 5K – 12	Two (2) doses of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least one month.
Rubella (German Measles)	Grades 5K – 12	One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.
Mumps	Grades 5K – 12	One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday.
Hepatitis B	Grades 5K – 12	Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.
Varicella	Grades 5K – 10	One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease.

Exemptions

Students may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

1. **Medical Contraindication:** An exemption from these immunization requirements due to a medical contraindication described on the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, signed by an individual licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy, or his/her authorized representative, may be granted to a child when the physician or osteopath has determined that a particular vaccine(s) required by this schedule is not advisable for the child. If it is determined that this particular vaccine(s) is no longer contraindicated, the child will be required to have the vaccine(s). The temporary or permanent nature of this exemption shall be noted in the appropriate spaces on the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 1148).
2. **Religious Exemption:** A South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating they are members of a recognized religious denomination in which the tenets and practices of the religious denomination conflict with immunizations.
3. **Special Exemptions:** A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption, signed by the school principal or his/her authorized representative, may be issued to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records from their former area of residence or to other students who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption may be issued only once and shall be valid for only thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment. At the expiration of this special exemption, the student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption.

The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be obtained from the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Department of Health and Environmental Control also provides blank forms of the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to immunization providers, and blank forms of the South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption to schools.



2010-2011 REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR DAY CARE ATTENDANCE

Minimum Immunization Requirements for Day Care Attendance

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina Code of Laws children less than six years of age who attend a licensed public or private child day care facility, a registered church or religious child day care facility, or child development program for K4 and younger must present to the day care facility (or school if the program is in a school setting) a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 1148), which assures they are "up-to-date" or "catching-up" on the childhood immunizations recommended and routinely provided by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Minimum Immunization Requirements for the Final Certificate for Day Care Attendance*

Also pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina State Law, DHEC has declared the following required standards of immunization necessary for a child to receive the immunization certificate for day care attendance in South Carolina.

Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTP-Hib, or DTaP vaccine.

Three (3) doses of any combination of oral or inactivated Polio vaccine.

Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.

Current, age-appropriate Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule: One (1) dose of Haemophilus influenza type b conjugate vaccine at or after 15 months of age for unvaccinated children 15-59 months of age.

One (1) dose of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease.

Current, age-appropriate Pneumococcal vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule: One (1) dose of Pneumococcal vaccine on or after the 2nd birthday for unvaccinated children 24-59 months.

*Minimum requirements for a final certificate for day care attendance should not be confused with the Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule as published by DHEC and approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).