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**SCHOOL-ENTRY
HEALTH
REQUIREMENTS**

The Department of Health (DOH) publication “Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Child Care Facilities, and Family Day Care Homes” is the current source of information regarding immunization requirements for school enrollment. It is periodically updated and available through the DOH Immunization Section web page.

Florida’s school immunization law (section 1003.22(5)(e), Florida Statutes) requires all students in public or nonpublic schools in kindergarten – 12th grade and public pre-school, including foreign exchange students to have documentation of proper immunization or exemption to attend school.

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These requirements apply only to first-time students entering the Florida School System in grades Pre-K-12.

Students who are currently enrolled with proper documentation, who transfer from one school to another; from public to private school, from one county system to another within the State of Florida, etc., do not need new certification, but will be required to present a copy of their old DH 680 prior to entering. The DH 680 forms will be screened for proper documentation. There will be selected cases that will require the parent to contact their private physician, NAS Jax or the Department of Health in Duval County for correction or completion of the DH 680. These requirements also apply to summer school entries.

If the family has a copy of the student's immunization record (DH 680), this will ensure that their student will not be delayed in enrolling in a new school because of the lack of immunization certification.

If there is a question about the spacing of immunizations or if dates of immunizations are missing, refer the parent to their private physician or the Department of Health in Duval County. You may also contact the School Health Services office for assistance with record review.

It is the responsibility of DCPS staff to input into the student's electronic record their immunization history and update immunization code or exemption date as appropriate. The School Nurse will help to answer compliance questions.

Florida SHOTS™

Florida SHOTS™ (State Health Online Tracking System) is a free, statewide, centralized online immunization registry that helps health-care providers and schools keep track of immunization records. This helps ensure that students receive all vacc

would need to be locally approved on a case-by-case basis to determine if the minimum components have been included.

It is the responsibility of DCPS staff to input into the student's electronic record their health examination date and compliance code. The School Nurse will help to answer compliance questions.

Temporary Exemptions

An authorized school official may issue temporary exemptions for immunizations and/or school health entry examinations for a period of time not to exceed 30 days. These temporary exemptions may only be issued for the following situations:

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E Intrastate Transfer: a child who transfers into a new county within the state of Florida to attend class

F Homelessness: a homeless child, as defined in section 228.041, Florida Statutes

G Juvenile Justice: a child who enters the juvenile justice system

H Military: a military child as defined in 1000.36, Florida Statutes

If a student does not have the state mandated immunizations and school health entry examination at the time of enrollment and they do not meet one of the criteria listed above for a temporary exemption, their enrollment must be denied until they are able to provide the required documentation.

Annual Immunization Reports and Surveys

As provided for in s. 1003.22, F.S. each public and private school, including public and private kindergarten programs shall be required to submit an annual report of compliance with immunization mandates. Reports are to be completed on forms provided by the DOH for each kindergarten and 7th grade, unless a specific county has been approved for electronic reporting. Random audits of immunization records may be conducted by the DOH immunization program staff each year.

PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING STUDENTS UNDER THE THIRTY (30) SCHOOL-DAY TEMPORARY EXEMPTION PROVISION OF THE LAW

If a student does not have the state mandated immunizations and school health entry examination at the time of enrollment and they do not meet one of the criteria listed below for a temporary exemption, their enrollment must be denied until they are able to provide the required documentation.

The following are procedures for admitting students with a temporary exemption who do not present proof of immunization and/or school health entry examination at the time of enrollment:

A temporary exemption may only be issued for the following situations:

- (7) The parents of any child admitted to or in attendance at a Florida public or private school, grades prekindergarten through 12, are responsible for assuring that the child is in compliance with the provisions of this section.
- (8) Each public school, including public kindergarten, and each private school, including private kindergarten, shall be required to provide to the county health department director or administrator annual reports of compliance with the provisions of this section. Reports shall be completed on forms provided by the Department of Health for each kindergarten, and other grade as specified; and the reports shall include the status of children who were admitted at the beginning of the school year. After consultation with the Department of Education, the Department of Health shall establish by administrative rule the dates for submission of these reports, the grades for which the reports shall be required, and the forms to be used.
- (9) The presence of any of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required by the Department of Health in a Florida public or private school shall permit the county health department director or administrator or the State Health Officer to declare a communicable disease emergency. The declaration of such emergency shall mandate that all students in attendance in the school who are not in compliance with the provisions of this section be identified by the district school board or by the governing authority of the private school; and the school health and immunization records of such children shall be made available to the county health department director or administrator. Those children identified as not being immunized against the disease for which the emergency has been declared shall be temporarily excluded from school by the district school board, or the governing authority of the private school, until such time as is specified by the county health department director or administrator.
- (10) Each district school board and the governing authority of each private school shall:
 - (a) Refuse admittance to any child otherwise entitled to admittance to kindergarten, or any other initial entrance into a Florida public or private school, who is not in compliance with the provisions of subsection (4).
 - (b) Temporarily exclude from attendance any student who is not in compliance with the provisions of subsection (4).
- (11) The provisions of this section do not apply to those persons admitted to or attending adult education classes unless the adult students are under 21 years of age.