

IMMUNIZATIONS

Mississippi law provides that "it shall be unlawful for any child to attend school, kindergarten, or similar type facility intended for the instruction of children, either public or private, unless they shall first have been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the State Health Office." The board of trustees of the Jackson Public School District has the power, authority, and duty to require those vaccinations specified by the State Health Officer as provided by law. Application of immunization requirements will be consistent with state statute.

All Jackson Public School District scholars must present to the school of enrollment a Certificate of Compliance regarding vaccinations. All scholars must show evidence of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, red measles, German measles, and poliomyelitis. Additionally, effective August 1, 2007, the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PVC7) or "Pprevnar", will be added as a childcare requirement for children under five years old and entering child care for the first time. All scholars will be required to present the certificate at or before the time of enrollment. Children entering school for the first time are required to have two doses of chickenpox vaccine or a history of chickenpox. Beginning January 2008, all scholars, including those already enrolled in childcare, will be required to be vaccinated with the recommended doses of the pneumococcal vaccine. **Effective 2012-2013 and in subsequent years, all scholars entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping (pertussis) booster, Tdap vaccine, before entry into school. Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7th birthday meets the new school requirements.** Certificates of vaccinations shall be issued by local health officers or physicians on forms specified by the Mississippi State Board of Health. Enforcement of this law will require removal of children from classes if they are not adequately immunized.

Any child seeking admission or enrollment may seek a medical or religious exemption from the vaccination requirement. In order to seek an exemption, the parent or guardian must complete and submit the appropriate form to the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Once all requirements have been met, the Mississippi State Department of Health will issue a Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption (Form 122) to the parent or guardian. That form must then be presented to the district. The district will not acknowledge any medical or religious exemption without the appropriate form on file in the central office.

In his/her discretion, the superintendent may grant an extension to allow a parent or guardian to obtain an appointment with a health care provider and to return the completed 139-R (religious) or 139-M (medical) exemption request form to the school district. The district reserves the right to revoke the exemption and remove the child from school if the parent or guardian does not return all completed forms in a timely manner.

Children with a Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption who are not adequately immunized will be excluded from school if there is a threat of vaccine preventable diseases occurring in the community. The child will be excluded until the infectious disease is no longer present or is no longer a threat to the safety and welfare of the child or other children in the school.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures to support this policy.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Mississippi Department of Health

DATE: April 30, 1980

AMENDED: July 16, 2007; August 4, 2016; August 1, 2023

REVIEWED: July 24, 2023