

KANSAS SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Immunization requirements and recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year are based on the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#) recommendations, including the current recommended and minimum interval immunization schedules and the catch-up schedule if a child falls behind. To avoid missed opportunities, immunization providers may use a four-day grace period, in most instances, per age and interval between doses. In such cases, these doses may be counted as valid.

[K.S.A. 72-6261](#) et seq. and [K.A.R. 28-1-20](#) specify the immunizations required for school and early childhood program attendance. Vaccines continue to be a safe and effective tool for preventing serious infectious diseases, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment encourages anyone with questions to talk to their healthcare provider.

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP/Tdap):** Five doses required. Doses should be given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). The fourth dose may be given as early as 12 months of age, if at least 6 months have elapsed since dose 3. The fifth dose is not necessary if the fourth dose was administered at age 4 years or older. A dose of **Tdap** is required at entry to seventh grade (11 to 12 years).
- **Hepatitis A (Hep A):** Two doses required. Doses should be given at 12 to 23 months with a minimum interval of 6 months between the first and second dose.
- **Hepatitis B (Hep B):** Three doses required. Doses should be given at birth, 1 to 2 months, and 6 to 18 months. Minimum age for the final dose is 24 weeks.
- **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR):** Two doses required. Doses should be given at 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). Minimum age is 12 months and interval between doses may be as short as 28 days.
- **Meningococcal-Serogroup A,C,W,Y (MenACWY):** Two doses required. Doses should be given at entry to seventh grade (11 to 12 years) and eleventh grade (16 to 18 years). Eleventh graders who are not yet 16 years of age should wait to receive the dose until they are 16 years of age. For children 16 to 18 years, with no previous MenACWY, only one dose is required.
- **Poliomyelitis (IPV/tOPV):** Four doses required. Doses should be given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). Three doses are acceptable if third dose was given after 4 years of age **and** at least 6 months have elapsed since dose 2.
- **Varicella (Chickenpox):** Two doses are required. Doses should be given at 12 to 15 months and 4 to 6 years (prior to kindergarten entry). The second dose may be administered as early as 3 months after the first dose; however, a dose administered after a four-week interval is considered valid. No doses are required when student has history of varicella disease documented by a licensed physician.

Legal alternatives to school vaccination requirements are found in [K.S.A. 72-6262](#). In addition to the immunizations required for school entry, the following vaccines are recommended:

- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV):** Two doses *recommended* at 9 to 12 years of age or three doses if the series is started after 15 years.
- **Influenza:** Annual vaccination *recommended* for all ages \geq 6 months of age.

Vaccination efforts by school and public health officials, immunization providers, and parents are key to the success of protecting our children and communities from vaccine preventable diseases. Thank you for your dedication.

Kansas Statutes Related to School Immunizations

K.S.A. 72-6261. Health tests and inoculations; definitions. As used in this act:

- (a) "School Board" means the board of education of a school district and the governing authority of any nonpublic school;
- (b) "school" means all elementary, junior high, or high schools within the state.
- (c) "local health department" means any county or joint board of health established under the laws of Kansas and having jurisdiction over the place where any pupil affected by this act may reside;
- (d) "secretary" means the secretary of the state department of health and environment;
- (e) "physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery

History: L. 1961, ch. 354, 1; L. 1978, ch. 291, 1; July 1.

K.S.A. 72-6262. Health tests and inoculations; certification of completion required, alternatives; duties of school boards.

(a) In each school year, every pupil enrolling or enrolled in any school for the first time in this state, and each child enrolled for the first time in a preschool or day care program operated by a school, and such other pupils as may be designated by the secretary, prior to admission to and attendance at school, shall present to the appropriate school board certification from a physician or local health department that the pupil has received such tests and inoculations as are deemed necessary by the secretary by such means as are approved by the secretary. Pupils who have not completed the required inoculations may enroll or remain enrolled while completing the required inoculations if a physician or local health department certifies that the pupil has received the most recent appropriate inoculations in all required series. Failure to timely complete all required series shall be deemed non-compliance.

(b) As an alternative to the certification required under subsection (a), a pupil shall present:

(1) An annual written statement signed by a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child to be such that the tests or inoculations would seriously endanger the life or health of the child, or

(2) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations

(c) On or before May 15th of each school year, the school board of every school affected by this act shall notify the parents or guardians of all known pupils who are enrolled or who will be enrolling in the school of the provisions of this act and of any policy regarding the implementation of the provisions of this act adopted by the school board.

(d) If a pupil transfers from one school to another, the school from which the pupil transfers shall forward with the pupil's transcript the certification or statement showing evidence of

compliance with the requirements of this act to the school to which the pupil transfers.

History: L. 1961, ch. 354, 2; L. 1965, ch. 412, 1; L. 1970, ch. 283, 1; L. 1975, ch. 462, 107; L. 1978, ch. 291, 2; L., 1981, ch. 285, 1; L. 1993, ch. 89, 1; L. 1994, ch. 206, 1; July 1.

K.S.A. 72-6263. Same; duties of public health departments and officers; fees, exception to payment. A county, city-county, or multicounty health department shall provide without delay, and to the extent that funds designated by such health department for the purchase of vaccines are available, the tests and inoculations required by this act to such pupils as are not provided therewith by their parents or guardians and who have not been exempted on religious or medical grounds. Such tests and inoculations may be provided on a sliding fee scale for administrative charges, with the exception that no child may be denied inoculations for inability to pay an administrative fee. The local health officer shall counsel and advise school boards concerning the administration of this act.

History: L. 1961, ch. 354, 3; L. 1965, ch. 412, 2; 1978, ch. 291, 3; L. 1980, ch. 182, 30; L. 1994, ch. 206, 2; L. 2002 ch. 12, 1; July 1.

K.S.A. 72-6264. Same; duties of secretary; forms and certificates; regulations.

The secretary shall prescribe the content of forms and certificates to be used by school boards in carrying out this act and shall provide, without cost to the school boards, sufficient copies of this act for distribution to pupils. Schools shall utilize the reporting form adopted by the secretary for documentation of all immunizations. Audit information shall be obtained from this adopted form. The secretary may adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

History: L. 1961, ch. 354, 4; L. 1975, ch. 462, 108; L. 1978, ch. 291, 4; L. 1994, ch. 206, 3; July 1.

K.S.A. 72-6265. Exclusion of pupils from school attendance; adoption of policy; notice; hearing; compulsory attendance law not applicable. (a) The school board of every school affected by this act may exclude from school attendance, or by policy adopted by any such school board authorize any certificated employee or committee of certificated employees to exclude from school attendance, any pupil who has not complied with the requirements of K.S.A. 72-6262. A pupil shall be subject to exclusion from school attendance under this section until such time as the pupil shall have complied with the requirements of K.S.A. 72-6262. The policy shall include provisions for written notice to be given to the parent or guardian of the involved pupil. The notice shall (1) indicate the reason for the exclusion from school attendance, (2) state that the pupil shall continue to be excluded until the pupil has complied with the requirements of K.S.A. 72-6262, and (3) inform the parent or guardian that a hearing thereon shall be afforded the parent or guardian upon request therefor.

(b) The provisions of K.S.A. 72-3120 do not apply to any pupil while subject to exclusion from school attendance under the provisions of this section.

History: L. 1978, ch. 291, § 5; L. 1981, ch. 285, § 2; July 1.

Additional Kansas Statutes Related to Immunizations

Consent:	Disclosure:	Insurance Coverage:
38-136	65-531	40-2, 102
38-137		
38-138		
38-139		
38-140		

Revised Dec. 28, 2023



The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, the Kansas School Nurses Organization, and the Immunize Kansas Coalition are teaming up to remind you why routine vaccines for school entry are necessary and a cost-effective life-saving measure for your child.

Routine vaccines keep everyone healthy.

Children who are not vaccinated according to both the Kansas requirements and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are at higher risk of getting diseases that could really make them sick. Diseases such as measles and polio can cause life-altering side effects like permanent paralysis. Not vaccinating your child can not only make THEM sick, but it can also make other children sick, too. Disease spreads quickly among children, and children who have weakened immune systems can be severely at-risk for catching diseases. Vaccinating keeps everyone healthy and students in school where they can learn.

Routine vaccines allow children to have better immunity to disease over time.

Prior to routine vaccines, children had high rates of death in the United States. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, about 1 in 5 children died before the age of 5, with a leading cause being vaccine-preventable diseases. With vaccines, children can build better immunity to diseases over time, increasing their lifespan and giving parents peace of mind that their children are safe from disease. Vaccines work by training your body to fight germs faster. Vaccines teach the body what germs to look out for, and the body naturally builds up a supply of antibodies to target the specific germ and fight the disease when it encounters it. Vaccines encourage the body to build up its immunity – and that’s a good thing.

Routine vaccines are designed by top doctors, public health professionals, and scientists.

Before vaccines are made available to the public, they go through a thorough clinical and design process, where every component of the vaccine is tested to ensure safety and effectiveness. All vaccine manufacturers are required to put vaccines through a long process known as a clinical trial. This trial typically occurs in 3 phases and any adverse reactions that occur during the process are reviewed to guarantee safety and determine if the vaccine needs more research and trials.

The danger of not following the vaccine schedule and delaying vaccination.

Following the recommended schedule published by the CDC and the school requirements for Kansas is important for the immunization process to work at its best. Along with testing for safety, vaccine manufacturers test at different time periods for effectiveness, determining the best time to give the vaccine to increase the immune response. Delaying those vaccinations can cause the vaccines to lose their effectiveness and expose your child to diseases they could have otherwise avoided.

Immunizations needed to attend Kansas public schools.

Per state law, prior to attending school, all students must present certification that they are up to date on their immunizations. Failure to receive all required vaccinations shall be deemed noncompliance. Any student who does not provide documentation of vaccinations, or a legal exemption may be excluded from school per their school district's policy. Keeping your child up to date on routine vaccines can prevent them from missing valuable class time.

Maintaining school immunization requirements ensures that Kansas schools and their students remain protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Together, we can do our part by keeping school immunization requirements in place, building widespread community immunity for years to come.

Contact:

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
Shelby.ostrom@kalhd.org

Kansas School Nurses Organization
<https://www.ksno.org/contactus>

Immunize Kansas Coalition
staff@immunizekansascoalition.org

Kansas Administrative Regulations

Agency 28

Department of Health and Environment

Article 1.—Diseases

28-1-20. Immunizations; schools, child care facilities, and preschool or child care programs

operated by a school. (a) Definition. For the purposes of this regulation, "susceptible child" shall mean either of the following if, for that individual, there is no history of the disease that has been documented by a physician, no laboratory documentation of immunity, or no documentation acceptable to the secretary that demonstrates current vaccination against the disease:

- (1) Any individual who attends school as defined in K.S.A. 72-6261, and amendments thereto; or
- (2) any individual who is enrolled, is placed, or resides in a child care facility as defined in K.S.A. 65-503, and amendments thereto, or a preschool or child care program operated by a school.

(b) Required vaccinations. Except as provided in K.S.A. 72-6262 and amendments thereto, each susceptible child shall be required to receive the following vaccinations before enrolling in any school:

- (1) Diphtheria;
- (2) hepatitis A;
- (3) hepatitis B;
- (4) measles (rubeola);
- (5) meningitis;
- (6) mumps;
- (7) pertussis (whooping cough);
- (8) poliomyelitis;
- (9) rubella (German measles);
- (10) tetanus; and
- (11) varicella (chickenpox).

(c) Immunization record for school entry. The immunization record of each individual who attends school shall document that the individual has received the vaccinations specified in subsection (b) from a physician or local health department or is not a susceptible child, on forms provided by the department of health and environment.

(d) Immunizations required for a child in a child care facility or preschool or child care program operated by a school. Each susceptible child, including a child under 16 years of age of a child care provider who is enrolled, is placed, or resides in a child care facility or a preschool or child care program operated by a school, shall be required to receive the following immunizations as medically

appropriate:

- (1) Diphtheria;
- (2) *Haemophilus influenzae* type B;
- (3) hepatitis A;
- (4) hepatitis B;
- (5) measles (rubeola);
- (6) mumps;
- (7) pertussis (whooping cough);
- (8) pneumococcal disease;
- (9) poliomyelitis;
- (10) rubella;
- (11) tetanus; and
- (12) varicella (chickenpox).

(e) Immunization records for a child care facility. Each child's immunization record shall be maintained on the forms provided by the department of health and environment. (Authorized by K.S.A. 65-508 and 72-6264; implementing K.S.A. 65-508 and 72-6262; effective, E-79-18, July 20, 1978; effective May 1, 1979; amended April 9, 2004; amended July 11, 2008; amended Aug. 2, 2019.)

**** *Authenticated Kansas Administrative Regulation* ****

All students enrolling in any district school shall provide the building principal with proof of immunization of certain diseases or furnish documents to satisfy statutory requirements. Booster shots mandated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment are also required.

As an alternative to the certification required, a pupil shall present:

1. An annual written statement signed by a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child to be such that the tests or inoculations would seriously endanger the life or health of the child, or
2. An annual written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations.

Students who fail to provide the documentation required by law may be excluded from school following 60 days from enrollment by the superintendent until statutory requirements are satisfied. Notice of exclusion shall be given to the parents/guardians as prescribed by law. Students who are not immunized against a particular disease(es) will be excluded from school during any outbreak as deemed necessary by the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Environment.

Parents may delegate in writing their authority to consent to immunizations. If the parent is not reasonably available, and the authority to consent has not been denied as provided in law, individuals other than the parent may consent to the immunizations as provided for in current law.

Each principal shall forward evidence of compliance with the inoculation law to other schools or school districts when requested by the school or by the student's parents/guardians.

A copy of this policy and the applicable state law shall be distributed to students, prospective students or their parents on or before May 15 of each school year.

Approved: USD 293 11/12/2012

KASB Recommendation--7/96; 9/97; 4/07; 6/08; 12/15