



# IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS

Ensuring your child has **annual check-ups** and attends all appointments scheduled by their primary care provider is essential for keeping their vaccinations up to date.

| Vaccine       | Age or Grade  |                   |  |              |              |                     |                           |                            |
|---------------|---|-------------------|--|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|               | Before 24 weeks   | 24 weeks or after | At 1 year or after   | By 18 months | By 24 months | At 4 years or after | By April 1st of 6th grade | By April 1st of 10th grade |
| Hep B         | 1st and 2nd doses   | 3rd dose          |  |              |              |                     |                           |                            |
| DTaP          | Doses 1, 2, 3, and 4 for preschool programs with children 18 months old |                   |  |              |              | Dose 5              |                           |                            |
| Tdap (Td)     |   |                   |  |              |              |                     | 1st dose                  |                            |
| Polio (IPV)   | Doses 1, 2, and 3 for preschool programs with children 18 months old    |                   |  |              |              | Dose 4              |                           |                            |
| MMR           |   |                   | Dose 1   |              |              | Dose 2              |                           |                            |
| Varicella     |   |                   | Dose 1   |              |              | Dose 2              |                           |                            |
| Hep A         |   |                   | 2 doses separated by 6 months (1st dose on or after 1st birthday)  |              |              |                     |                           |                            |
| Hib           |   |                   | 1 Dose   |              |              |                     |                           |                            |
| Meningococcal |   |                   |  |              |              |                     | 1st Dose                  | Booster dose               |
| Pneumococcal  |   |                   | 1 Dose   |              |              |                     |                           |                            |
| Influenza     |   |                   | 1 dose between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31 for the year attending Pre-K (for those receiving flu vaccine for 1st time, they must receive 2 doses separated by at least 28 days) |              |              |                     |                           |                            |

Note: The dates above indicate when vaccines are due in order to be fully up to date. For the full legal requirements for school entry visit: [portal.ct.gov/immunization/Laws-and-Regulations](http://portal.ct.gov/immunization/Laws-and-Regulations). If you are unsure if a child is in compliance, contact your child's primary care provider, school nurse, or the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

**Due dates for physical exams and grade level immunizations:**  
 Start of Pre-K  
 Start of Kindergarten  
 April 1st for 6th graders (Monday if falls on weekend)  
 April 1st for 10th graders (Monday if falls on weekend)  
 Upon entry for those starting school (see definition)

**New entrants** are any students who are new to the school district, including all preschoolers and all students coming in from Connecticut private, parochial and charter schools located in the same or another community. All preschoolers, as well as all students entering kindergarten, including those repeating kindergarten, and those moving from any public or private pre-school program, even in the same school district, are considered new entrants.

**Important Information for New and Returning Students:**  
 All new students and returning students in grades with specific requirements (outlined above) must have a completed physical examination and be up-to-date on all required vaccinations prior to the start of the school year (or deadline seen above). **Students who do not meet these requirements may face exclusion from school until they are in compliance.**

**Have you recently moved to Connecticut from another state?** Consult your doctor to confirm your child is up to date. Some vaccines required in Connecticut may not have been mandated in your previous state.

**Attention Parents of Pre-K Students:**  
 To ensure the health and safety of all, students in pre-k must be vaccinated against the flu before December 31st. Students who are not fully vaccinated by the deadline may be excluded from school until they meet all immunization requirements.



Find out more!



Is your child due for a vaccination? Scan the QR code or visit [Bridgeportct.gov/childhoodvaccines](http://Bridgeportct.gov/childhoodvaccines) to find a convenient location and ensure your child stays up-to-date on their immunizations.



# Required vaccines and why we need them

Every child attending Connecticut Public Schools must receive vaccinations against the following diseases to ensure a healthier future and prevent potential school exclusion. These vaccines are crucial for preventing the spread of highly contagious diseases, outbreaks, and protecting vulnerable individuals. They also reduce the risk of severe illness, transmission, complications, hospitalizations, and deaths, particularly among high-risk groups like young children, the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions.

| Disease Name                               | Symptoms and Complications   | Vaccine Preventable? | Vaccine Name          |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Hepatitis B</b>                         | A liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) that can lead to lifelong complications, including cirrhosis (scarring) and liver cancer. Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowing skin/eyes)   | ✓                    | Hepatitis B vaccine   |
| <b>Diphtheria</b>                          | Bacterial infection affecting the respiratory system causing difficulty breathing & sore throat, fever, thick throat coating, in severe cases can cause heart failure, paralysis, and death  | ✓                    | DTaP, Tdap, or Td     |
| <b>Tetanus</b>                             | Bacterial infection that affects the nervous system, causing muscle stiffness, painful spasms (lockjaw), and difficulty breathing. It can be fatal if not treated promptly.  | ✓                    | DTaP, Tdap, or Td     |
| <b>Pertussis (Whooping cough)</b>          | Highly contagious bacterial infection affecting the respiratory system, affecting airways, causing severe coughing fits (whooping sound), runny nose, fever, vomiting, pneumonia, ear infections, and in severe cases developmental delays.  | ✓                    | DTaP or Tdap          |
| <b>Polio</b>                               | Viral infection attacking nervous system & fever, sore throat, headache, muscle weakness, and in severe cases paralysis. Vaccination with IPV (Inactivated Polio Vaccine) is essential for eradicating polio globally and preventing its resurgence.   | ✓                    | Polio (IPV) vaccine   |
| <b>Mumps</b>                               | A viral infection that causes swelling of the salivary glands (parotid glands) in the cheeks and jaw, fever, headache, muscle aches, fatigue. It can also lead to other complications, such as deafness, meningitis (brain inflammation), encephalitis (brain swelling), and orchitis (inflammation of the testicles). | ✓                    | MMR vaccine           |
| <b>Measles</b>                             | A highly contagious respiratory illness that causes high fever, widespread rash, cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes, and light sensitivity. It can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, ear infections, and death.  | ✓                    | MMR vaccine           |
| <b>Rubella (German measles)</b>            | Viral infection affecting the respiratory system causing mild fever, rash (starting on face), swollen lymph nodes, and joint pain. It poses risks especially for pregnant women, potentially leading to birth defects.   | ✓                    | MMR vaccine           |
| <b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b>              | Highly contagious viral infection that causes an itchy, blistering rash (starts on face/trunk), fever, fatigue, and loss of appetite. Can lead to bacterial skin infections (from scratching), pneumonia, and encephalitis.  | ✓                    | Varicella vaccine     |
| <b>Hepatitis A</b>                         | A liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV) that is spread through contaminated food or water. It can cause fever, fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) and in severe cases liver failure.   | ✓                    | Hepatitis A vaccine   |
| <b>Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)</b> | Bacterial infection causing serious illnesses & fever, cough, runny/stuffy nose, and ear infection. Can cause difficulty breathing and lead to pneumonia, meningitis, epiglottitis (swelling of the upper airway), and bloodstream infections in young children.   | ✓                    | Hib vaccine           |
| <b>Pneumococcal disease</b>                | Bacterial infection that causes fever, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, confusion (in severe cases). Can lead to inflammation, pneumonia, meningitis, bloodstream infections, and hearing loss.  | ✓                    | Pneumococcal vaccine  |
| <b>Meningococcal disease</b>               | Bacterial infection affecting the brain, spinal cord, and bloodstream, causing fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and light sensitivity (in severe cases). Can lead to meningitis, septicemia (bloodstream infection), and shock, leading to permanent disability or death.                     | ✓                    | Meningococcal vaccine |
| <b>Influenza (Flu)</b>                     | A contagious viral respiratory illness that causes fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, muscle aches, headache, and fatigue. Can lead to pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections, ear infections, and in severe cases hospitalization.  | ✓                    | Influenza vaccine     |

| Vaccine  | Notes   |
|--|---|
| MMR  | Second MMR vaccine for school year 2024-2025 applies to all students in grades K-12.  |
| DTaP   | The DTaP vaccine is specifically for children under 7 years old. Once a child reaches the age of 7, they should receive the Tdap vaccine (see below).   |
| Tdap (Td)  | Tdap can be given to children aged 7 and older in place of the Td vaccine, unless contraindicated. 1 dose is needed for students who have completed all 3 primary DTaP series. Students who start the series at age 7 or older only need 3 doses of tetanus-diphtheria containing vaccine, one of which must be Tdap and will follow doctor's prescribed catch-up schedule. |
| Hep A  | Requirement for school year 2024-2025 applies to all Pre-K through 12th graders born 1/1/07 or later.   |
| Hep B  | Requirement for school year 2024-2025 applies to all students in grades K-12. The Hep B series must follow specific spacing intervals: a minimum of 4 weeks between doses 1 and 2, 8 weeks between doses 2 and 3, and at least 16 weeks between doses 1 and 3. Dose 3 must be administered at 24 weeks of age or later.   |
| MMR, Varicella, MMRV, Intranasal Influenza           | If two live virus vaccines (MMR, Varicella, MMRV, Intra-nasal Influenza) are not administered on the same day, they must be separated by at least 28 days (there is no 4-day grace period for live virus vaccines). If they are not separated by at least 28 days, the vaccine administered second must be repeated.  |
| Hep A, Hep B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella | Lab confirmation of immunity is only deemed acceptable for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella. For Varicella disease, written confirmation from a medical professional (MD, PA, or APRN) is required, indicating the child's previous history of the disease based on family or medical records.  |

