

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 PUPILS

TITLE: Immunizations and Communicable
Diseases

ADOPTED: December 21, 2011

REVISED: December 15, 2016

203. IMMUNIZATIONS & COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Authority

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the School Reform Commission requires that established policy and administrative procedures be followed by students, parents/guardians and district staff. [\[1\]\[2\]](#)

Guidelines

Immunization

All students shall be immunized against specific diseases in accordance with state and municipal law and regulations, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.

A certificate of immunization shall be maintained as part of the health record for each student, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. [\[3\]](#)

A student who has not been immunized in accordance with state and municipal law and regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools or programs, unless exempted for medical or religious reasons or provisionally admitted by the Superintendent or designee. [\[1\]\[3\]\[4\]\[5\]](#)

A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the student's medical condition contraindicates immunization. [\[1\]\[4\]\[5\]\[6\]](#)

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee and the building principal. [\[1\]](#)

Students attending child care group settings located in a school, a pre-kindergarten program or an early intervention program operated by the district shall be immunized in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) standards. [\[7\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Annually, or whenever necessary, review state and municipal standards for immunization and direct the responsible district personnel accordingly.
2. Ensure that parents/guardians are informed prior to a student's entry to school of the requirements for immunization, the requisite proof of immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reasons, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.[\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)
3. Investigate and recommend to the SRC district-sponsored programs of immunization that may be warranted to safeguard the health of the school community. Such program shall be subject to SRC approval and may be conducted in cooperation with local health agencies.
4. Report immunization data on the required form to the Pennsylvania Department of Health by October 15 of each year.[\[10\]](#)

Communicable Diseases

The SRC authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by School Health Services shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Philadelphia Department of Public Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions.[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

School Health Services shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Philadelphia Department of Public Health.[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall direct that health guidelines and universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases be implemented in district schools.

Instruction regarding prevention of communicable and life-threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels, in accordance with state regulations.[\[17\]](#)

Parents/Guardians shall be informed and provided opportunities during school hours to review all curriculum materials used in instruction relative to communicable and life-threatening diseases.[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)

Health Records

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained in the district-sanctioned Student Information System for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, regular and special examinations, and medical questionnaires.[\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#)

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the parent/guardian.[\[22\]](#)

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 1303a

2. 28 PA Code 23.81 et seq

3. 28 PA Code 23.85

4. 28 PA Code 23.83

5. 22 PA Code 11.20

6. 28 PA Code 23.84

7. 28 PA Code 27.77

8. Pol. 200

9. Pol. 201

10. 28 PA Code 23.86

11. 28 PA Code 27.71

12. 28 PA Code 27.72

13. Pol. 204

14. 28 PA Code 27.1

15. 28 PA Code 27.2

16. 28 PA Code 27.23

17. 22 PA Code 4.29

18. 22 PA Code 4.4

19. Pol. 105.1

20. 24 P.S. 1402

21. Pol. 209

22. 24 P.S. 1409

55 PA Code 3270.131

55 PA Code 3270.136

55 PA Code 3270.137

Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 6, Sections 6-204, 6-210

Philadelphia Department of Public Health Guidance - Immunization Requirements for School Entry

Pol. 105.2