



March 6, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

Please review the South Carolina Immunization Requirements for Childcare and School for the 2020-2021 school year. Included you will find general guidance and specific requirements for childcare and school attendance.

Childcare and school immunization requirements are minimum requirements. Several other vaccines are recommended for all children but are not required. We encourage you to recommend all age-appropriate vaccines for children.

**Changes for the 2020-2021 School Year:**

**6<sup>th</sup>** grade has been added to the requirement for (2) doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.

**8<sup>th</sup>** grade has been added to the requirement for three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

Hepatitis A Vaccine has been added as a requirement:

**Childcare:** 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months for any child born on or after January 1, 2019. Vaccine series must be started by 18 months of age.

**School:** 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months for 5K only.

Doses documented on the SC Certificate of Immunization (DHEC 2740) must be valid according to accepted practice standards. DHEC supports the provision of all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines according to current ACIP schedules, recommendations and CDC General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization.

**Please refer to page 3 of this document for specific guidance regarding completing the SC Certificate of Immunization for the new hepatitis A requirement and upcoming changes with the launch of the SC Statewide Immunization Online Network ([SIMON](#)).**

We appreciate your continuing efforts to protect South Carolina children from vaccine-preventable diseases. Any questions may be directed to DHEC's Immunization Division at 800-277-4687 or [immunize@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:immunize@dhec.sc.gov).

Sincerely,

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## **General Guidance for South Carolina Immunization Requirements**

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A valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization for all enrolled children, 3 months of age and older, must be maintained by public and private childcare facilities (as defined in SC Code of Laws Section 63-13-20); public, private, and parochial schools, grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; and child development programs under the control of the Department of Education.

[South Carolina state law](#) requires a valid SC Certificate of Immunization or valid exemption. Children without a valid certificate or exemption will not be allowed to attend childcare and/or school. Failure to comply with this law may result in audits and/or legal action.

Doses documented on the immunization certificate must be valid doses according to accepted practice standards for the [minimum age\(s\) and intervals](#), as well as all [ACIP vaccine specific recommendations](#) and [CDC General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization](#).

For unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children, refer to currently published ACIP Catch-Up Schedule for number of doses necessary to complete the vaccine series and meet the requirement.

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, students may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

**Medical Exemption:** The Medical Exemption section of the SC Certificate of Immunization should only be completed when a child has a permanent or temporary medical reason for exclusion from receipt of vaccine(s). The Medical Exemption section must be completed by a licensed Physician (MD or DO) or his/her authorized representative (e.g. Physician's Assistant or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse). For temporary medical exemptions, an expiration date in the future is documented when next immunizations are due.

**Religious Exemption:** A religious exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating that one or more immunizations conflicts with their religious beliefs. The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption can only be obtained from a DHEC health department. The parent or guardian must sign the DHEC form in the presence of a notary.

**Special Exemptions:** A SC Certificate of Special Exemption may be issued by the school to a student that has been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. This exemption is only valid for 30 calendar days for the current enrollment and may be issued only once.

### **Resources:**

ACIP vaccine recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>

ACIP schedules <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

CDC General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html>

Minimum ages and intervals

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/age-interval-table.pdf>

## South Carolina Certificate of Immunization Guidance

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With the launch of the new Statewide Immunization Online Network ([SIMON](#)) later in 2020, the current SC Certificate of Immunization (DHEC 2740) will be replaced with a new version, the DHEC 4024. This form will be printed directly from SIMON.

Beginning July 1, 2021, all new certificates will be required to be issued on the DHEC 4024 form. Valid certificates issued prior to July 1, 2021 will be acceptable and will not need to have a new certificate issued.

Prior to this change, the accepted form will still be the DHEC 2740. With the addition of the hepatitis A vaccine requirement for 2020-2021, it will be necessary to document valid doses on the current form. Instructions are provided below:

### Documentation of Hepatitis A Vaccine Doses on DHEC 2740:

All required vaccines in the past have been noted above the double line. However, since Hepatitis A vaccine is now required, doses will be documented below the double line. During the transition period from the DHEC 2740 to the 4024, this is acceptable. For compliance, 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine must be documented for the childcare or the 5K requirement on the DHEC 2740.

<b>1</b>	Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____	MCI/Chart #: _____
Vaccination Date			
<b>2</b>	Hep-B		
	IPV • OPV		
	DTaP • DT		
	Td		
	Tdap		
	Hib		
	MMR		
	Varicella		Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> for a reliable history of Varicella (chickenpox)†
	PCV		
	Rotavirus		
	Hep-A		
	HPV		
MCV4			

## **South Carolina Immunization Requirements for Childcare 2020-2021**

The following minimum requirements are necessary for childcare. These requirements will be effective as of July 1, 2020. This includes preschool attendance for 4K programs and younger. An SC Certificate of Immunization with an expiration date is acceptable to allow for age-appropriate completion of vaccination series. No child can attend childcare or preschool for more than 30 days past the expiration date of the certificate.

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis</b>	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, or DTaP vaccine.
<b>Polio</b>	Three (3) doses of any combination of oral or inactivated polio vaccine
<b>Haemophilus influenza Type b (Hib)</b>	Current, age-appropriate Hib vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule. For children 15-59 months of age who have not yet completed age-appropriate Hib vaccination, one (1) dose of Hib vaccine at or after 15 months of age is required. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age and older.
<b>Measles, Mumps and Rubella</b>	One (1) dose of MMR vaccine received on or after the first birthday
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months for any child born on or after January 1, 2019. Vaccine series must be started by 18 months of age.
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine with the third dose received $\geq$ 24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose
<b>Varicella</b>	One (1) dose of varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease
<b>Pneumococcal</b>	Current, age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule. For children aged 24-59 months who have not yet completed any age-appropriate pneumococcal vaccination, one (1) dose of PCV13 on or after the 2nd birthday is required. Pneumococcal vaccine is not required for children 5 years of age and older.

**Please note:** Children enrolled in grade 5K or greater and enrolled in a childcare facility (e.g., after school and/or summer program) must meet school immunization requirements and have a valid SC Certificate of Immunization on file at the childcare and school facility.

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, "...no owner or operator of a public or private childcare facility as defined in Section 63-13-20 may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted."

## South Carolina Immunization Requirements for School 2020-2021

The following minimum immunization requirements are necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades 5K-12:

Vaccine	Grade	Grade Level Requirement
<b>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis</b>	5K-12	Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday. Refer to the currently published ACIP Catch Up Schedule for guidance on recommendations for students who are behind. For children 7 years of age and older following a catch up schedule, 3 doses may be acceptable.
<b>Tdap Booster</b>	7-12	One (1) dose of Tdap vaccine received on or after the 7 <sup>th</sup> birthday  This dose of Tdap may be included as one of the doses needed to meet the requirement for Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis.
<b>Polio</b>	5K-8	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday
	9-12	Three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) with at least one (1) dose received on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday <b>OR</b> four (4) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) before 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday (if all doses separated by at least 4 weeks) Follow CDC recommendations for students 18 years of age and older
<b>Measles, Mumps and Rubella</b>	5K - 12	Two (2) doses of MMR vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 4 weeks
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	5K	2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months.
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	5K - 12	Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine, with the third dose received $\geq$ 24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose
<b>Varicella</b>	5K - 6	Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 4 weeks or a positive history of disease.
	7-12	One (1) dose of varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease

**Please note:**

- Children enrolled in 4K programs and younger must meet Childcare Requirements, even if attendance is in a school setting.
- Children enrolled in 5K through Grade 12 must meet School Requirements.
- In general, titers may only be accepted as evidence of immunity to Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, “no superintendent of an institution of learning, no school board or principal of a school...may...enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.... Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained by the institution, school or day care facility to which the child or person has been admitted.”