



## **Important Information for Parents/Guardians with Children Entering Kindergarten**

Each parent or guardian is responsible for providing written proof from a healthcare provider that documents their child's age-appropriate immunizations(s). This will include the prescribed number of doses of vaccine(s) and administration dates. All students enrolled in Bedford County Public Schools must provide this information, regardless of whether participating in person or with remote learning. Vaccines must be administered as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and *must be administered within time and age requirements* ([VDH School Requirements: Immunization](#)).

### **What are the NEW changes regarding kindergarten school entry vaccination requirements?**

- **Before children enter kindergarten they now need two properly spaced doses of the hepatitis A vaccine (HAV).** The first dose should be administered at age 12 months or older. The HAV vaccine requirement **is an addition** to the existing kindergarten vaccine requirements. Prior to the law going into effect children entering kindergarten were not required to have the HAV vaccine.

### **With the new requirements, are students in first grade and above required to receive the HAV vaccine doses?**

- No, rising first grade students and above will be considered “grandfathered” and will not be required to receive the HAV vaccine doses.

### **If a first grade student comes to Virginia from out of state, will they be required to have the HAV vaccine doses for school entry?**

- No, the first grader is not required to have the Hep A series, however, it is recommended.

### **If a Kindergarten student presents with only one dose of the HAV vaccine on the first day of school, can the student receive a conditional enrollment?**

- Yes, the student can receive a conditional enrollment as long as the student has received the first dose of the HAV 2-dose series. The conditional enrollment period is 180 days.

If your child has NOT had these required vaccines you must provide the proper documentation **prior to** the start of the 2021-2022 school year for these immunizations. Phone calls or notes from parents are not acceptable forms of meeting this requirement. To avoid delay in getting your child’s schedule please make every effort to meet this requirement by providing the school with one of the following by **July 15, 2021**:

- 1) *Proof of having the booster vaccines required for school entry.*
- 2) *A notarized religious exemption form with a raised seal or registration number.*
- 3) *Medical exemption form signed by your physician indicating temporary or permanent exemption on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form.*

The school division may **exclude** your child from school attendance if this requirement is not met. **Teacher assignment or class schedules will not be released until this health information is provided to the school and verified.** If you need a copy of your child’s current school immunization record, please request a copy from the nurse and one will be provided within three business days. It is strongly suggested you discuss these changes with your health care provider in order to schedule your child soon to meet this school health requirement. Thank you for your prompt attention to this requirement.