



**POLICY 208 – COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND IMMUNIZATION**

**1. Authority**

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that the established policy and guidelines be followed.

**2. Guidelines**

Immunization

All students shall be immunized against certain diseases in accordance with Pennsylvania statutes, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.

No student shall be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools who has not been immunized **in accordance with state regulations, unless provisionally admitted or exempted for medical or religious reasons by the Superintendent.**

A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/guardian objects, in writing, to such immunization on religious grounds or whose physician certifies, in writing, that the student's physical conditions contraindicates immunization.

Immunization Requirements

All students shall be required to provide proof of having received the following immunizations:

**ALL GRADES K-12\***

- 4 doses of tetanus (1 dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday); 3 doses if series started after 7 years of age
- 4 doses of diphtheria (1 dose on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday); 3 doses if series started after 7 years of age
- 3 doses of polio
- 2 doses of measles
- 2 doses of mumps
- 1 dose of rubella
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella or written statement from physician/designee indicating month and year of disease or serologic proof of immunity

**GRADES 7-12\***

- 1 dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap)
- 1 dose of meningitis vaccine (MCV4)

Proof of immunization must be provided by any written record showing immunization dates. If immunization is against religious, moral or ethical beliefs, the parent/guardian must provide a signed document stating the reason. If immunization is not medically advisable, a physician (M.D. or D.O.) must provide a medical exemption statement.

### **3. Delegation of Responsibility**

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee and the Head Nurse.

### **4. Guidelines**

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct accordingly the responsible district personnel.
2. Inform parents/guardians prior to a student's entry to school for the first time 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.
3. Investigate and recommend to the Board district-sponsored programs of immunization that may be warranted by circumstances and the health of the school community. Any such program is subject to Board approval and may be conducted in cooperation with local health agencies.

### **Health Records**

The district shall require that, prior to admission to school for the first time, the parents/guardians shall complete a medical history report form which shall include information regarding known communicable diseases. The nurse or school physician may use such reports to advise the parent/guardian of the need for further medical care.

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, and regular and special examinations.

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.

As part of the health record, a certificate of immunization shall be maintained for each student enrolled, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

### **Attendance**

**The Board authorizes that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the Department of Health for certain specified diseases and infectious conditions.**

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the Department of Health.

\*As per the Allegheny County Health Department regulations; refer to [www.achd.net](http://www.achd.net) for continuous updates.