

Alabama Vaccine Exemption Laws

RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

CHAPTER 420-6-1 IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

420-6-1-.01	Authority
420-6-1-.02	General Provisions
420-6-1-.03	Immunization Schedule
420-6-1-.04	Vaccine Shortages

420-6-1-.01 Authority. This regulation is promulgated by the State Health Officer and approved by the State Board of Health on October 17, 1979, pursuant to Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-5.

Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-5, *et. seq.*

Author: Donald E. Williamson, M.D.

History: October 1, 1982

420-6-1-.02 General Provisions.

- (1) The board of education and the governing authority of each private school shall require each pupil, prior to entering kindergarten or first grade or prior to re-entering the higher grades of the schools of Alabama, to present a certificate of immunization for the prevention of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, and mumps. (Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-4.) Pupils who have passed their seventh birthday are exempt from a requirement for pertussis immunization.
- (2) Such certificate shall be on the form approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health and shall be made a part of the pupil's school record. When a student leaves a school upon graduation, transfer, relocation or otherwise, the school may return the original certificate to the student's parents/guardians and retain a legible copy in the school record.
- (3) A written objection from the parent or guardian of a student based on religious tenets and practices shall be submitted in person by the parent or guardian to the County Health Department for issuance of a Certificate of Religious Exemption from the required immunizations or testing. A licensed physician can provide individual exemption from the required immunizations or testing on a Certificate of Medical Exemption. The Certificate of Religious Exemption and the Certificate of Medical Exemption will be on forms approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health and will be accepted in lieu of the Certificate of Immunization.

Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-5, *et. seq.*
Author: Donald E. Williamson, M.D.; Charles H. Woernle, M.D., M.P.H.
History: October 1, 1982; Amendment June 11, 1993; Amended: Filed 1/17/97,
Effective 2/21/97.

420-6-1-.03 Immunization Schedule.

- (1) Except as provided in Section 420-6-1-.02 and in the Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-5, each pupil, prior to entering Alabama school grade kindergarten through twelfth grade shall receive age-appropriate immunizations as below:
 - (a) at a minimum, four (4) doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccination. The last dose must be administered after the child's fourth birthday. Booster doses of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid vaccine must be given 5-10 years after the preschool booster.
 - (b) 4 doses of polio vaccine, separated by at least 28 days. Only 3 doses are needed if the 3rd dose was administered after the 4th birthday.
 - (c) immunization against mumps and rubella. This dose shall be administered at 12 months of age or later.
 - (d) two (2) doses of measles-containing vaccine. The first dose shall be administered at 12 months of age or later and the second dose shall be administered at least 28 days later.
 - (e) varicella vaccine subject to the following schedule unless there is documentation of a positive varicella titer or a date of varicella disease. This requirement is effective for students entering kindergarten beginning fall of 2001 and will escalate by one successive grade each year for the following 12 years to include all grades, kindergarten through twelfth, beginning fall of 2013:
 - (i) one dose of varicella vaccine at 12 months of age or older for persons less than 13 years of age;
 - (ii) two doses of varicella vaccine separated by at least 28 days for persons 13 years of age or older beginning the vaccination series.
- (2) Vaccine doses administered <4 days before the minimum interval or age should be counted as valid. Doses administered >5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated as age-appropriate.

Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-5, *et. seq.*
Author: Donald E. Williamson, M.D.
History: Filed May 19, 1989; Amended: Filed July 20, 1990; December 19, 1990.
Emergency Amendment Filed: March 20, 1992. Permanent Amendment Filed: July 22, 1992.
Amended: Filed January 17, 1997, Effective February 21, 1997.
Amended: Filed July 19, 2000, Effective September 3, 2000.

Amended: Filed September 20, 2002, Effective December 25, 2002.

Amended: Filed October 21, 2005, Effective November 25, 2005.

420-6-1-.04 Vaccine Shortages

When the State Health Officer determines that there is a vaccine shortage of one or more vaccines whether statewide or localized, affecting the ability of the health care system to assure that all children have access to age-appropriate immunizations required for school entrance by Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 420-6-1-.03, the State Health Officer may notify affected health care providers about the supply shortage(s) and authorize such providers to validate a certificate of immunization despite one or more indicated, age-appropriate vaccinations not being administered because of vaccine shortage. Such validation will be accomplished by the provider affixing a department-supplied sticker to the individual child's certificate to indicate a new expiration date, not to exceed one year from the current date or the end of the school term for which the certificate is due, whichever shall be later.

Authority: Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 16-30-5, *et. seq.*

Author: Charles H. Woernle, M.D., M.P.H.

History: March 20, 2002. Effective: June 18, 2002.