

Kindergarten Immunization Requirements

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health requires that all students entering kindergarten have the following immunizations:

Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Pertussis (DTaP): 5 doses

Polio: 5 doses

MMR: 2 doses

Hepatitis B: 4 doses

Varicella: 2 doses

All students entering kindergarten must provide proof of having these vaccines **before school starts in August**. Documentation of a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption (Religious or Medical) or Provisional Certificate of Immunization may be submitted in lieu of a Certificate of Immunization. There will be no grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement. **Therefore, your child will not be allowed to start the school year unless I have received proof of this immunization.**

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming kindergartener.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at nicki.schultz@chariton.k12.ia.us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement.

Sincerely,

Nicki Schultz, RN

School Nurse

Chariton Community School District

All students entering, advancing or transferring into kindergarten will need proof of the following vaccinations: DTaP, Polio, MMR, Hepatitis B, and Varicella.

DTaP is a booster vaccine for infants and children under 7 years old. It safely protects against three dangerous diseases: whooping cough (also called pertussis), tetanus, and diphtheria.

Pertussis (also known as whooping cough) is a contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe. It spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes. The symptoms can last for months. Whooping cough is particularly dangerous for young babies.

Tetanus—causes a severe, painful tightening (spasms) of muscles, including of the jaw (“lockjaw”), which can limit swallowing and breathing.

Diphtheria—is a throat infection that can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and death.

Polio is a highly contagious disease caused by the poliovirus. It invades the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis in a matter of hours.

MMR is a booster vaccine for children. It safely protects against three dangerous diseases: measles, mumps, and rubella.

Measles a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. It results in a high fever, severe cough, runny nose, and a rash. It spreads easily through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Mumps is a highly contagious viral illness that primarily causes painful swelling of the salivary glands located between the ear and the jaw. It is easily spread through coughing, sneezing, or contact with contaminated saliva.

Rubella is a highly contagious viral infection. While it typically causes mild symptoms in children and adults, it is extremely dangerous for pregnant individuals, as it can cause severe birth defects known as congenital rubella syndrome.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks and causes inflammation of the liver.

Varicella, also known as the chicken pox, is a highly contagious disease. It results in an itchy, blister-like rash, fatigue, fever, and headache. While typically a mild illness in children, it can be severe or fatal in adults, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals.