

MEMO

North Dakota School Immunization Requirements

February 1, 2024

North Dakota Schools,

Kindergarten enrollment is upon us! The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (ND HHS) wants to make sure you have the necessary tools for helping families and students be ready for this fall by distributing school immunization requirements.

K-12 Immunization Requirements

Requirements have not changed in the past few years, so the [Immunization Requirements](#) document has been updated to have the year removed from the header and can be used until further notice. This webpage can also be easily translated into any one of 17 common languages, for any of your families that are less fluent in English. Just use the dropdown menu at the top right of the page. Our website also has printable versions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS)

The [NDIIS](#) is available to schools to look-up, print or manage the immunization status of your students. Immunization records are automatically sent to the NDIIS by most North Dakota healthcare facilities. If you need to request access to NDIIS, please [visit our website](#) or contact ndiis@nd.gov with any questions. Immunization doses as well as exemptions are entered into this system. NDIIS is an easy-to-use tool for completing the fall school immunization survey (sent out annually in October).

Out-of-state Records

International or out-of-state immunization records can be entered into the NDIIS. This will help school nurses and administrators be able to accurately assess whether a student's immunization history meets school requirements. The NDIIS forecaster tool shows if any vaccines need to be administered or repeated. If you would like a student's immunization record entered into NDIIS, please work with your local public health unit or email the record to NDIIS@nd.gov.

Exemptions and Using the Immunization Certificate

Parents or guardians requesting an exemption to immunization requirements for their child may do so by completing the exemption section of the [certificate of immunization](#), or by having their healthcare provider enter this into NDIIS. The form should include the parent or guardian signature, as well as the

type of exemption: religious, personal belief, history of disease, or medical. History of disease exemption only applies to chickenpox, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). A person claiming an MMR history of disease exemption must have a history of all three diseases. History of disease and medical exemptions must have a signature from the medical provider who can confirm that a person cannot receive a vaccine due to medical contraindications or verify that they had reliable evidence of history of disease.

Students Not Up to Date

Students who are behind on immunizations may be provisionally admitted to school, with the understanding that they will get caught up as soon as possible, but no longer than 30 days after admittance. Because of "minimum intervals" for some vaccines, this may require longer than 30 days, for some students. If families are continually working on vaccination compliance, they should continue to be allowed to attend. Please contact your local public health unit for help with making appointments for these students. Inform families now of upcoming immunization needs so that they can work to become fully vaccinated, over the summer.

Vaccine-preventable diseases are still common throughout the world and locally. North Dakota has seen an increase in pertussis cases since last fall. Several outbreaks of measles have occurred in primarily unvaccinated individuals in multiple U.S. states. To prevent measles outbreaks, a 95% MMR immunization rate is needed. These are just a couple of the dangerous diseases that vaccines prevent. In addition to reduced medical costs, high vaccination coverage also ensures limited missed days of school and work due to isolation or quarantine. Let's all do our part to keep kids healthy and at school!

Sincerely,



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