

# REGULATION

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Related Entries:** Policy JEG  
**Responsible Office:** DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

### **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS**

#### **A. PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines to school and health staff for immunization requirements for students.

#### **B. BACKGROUND**

In accordance with state law and regulations, Anne Arundel County Public Schools requires all students to comply with immunization requirements.

#### **C. DEFINITION**

1. Immunization is the process of creating immunity to a specific disease in an individual.
2. An epidemic is an infectious disease or condition that spreads rapidly among many individuals at the same time in the same geographical area.

#### **D. PROCEDURES**

1. Designated staff shall disseminate information regarding the required immunizations for entry to Maryland Public Schools at the time that students are registered for school.
2. The parent or guardian shall provide evidence of age-appropriate immunity to the school authorities prior to the entry of school, and the information shall be recorded on the official form published by the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (DHMH 896).
3. School health staff shall oversee the review of immunization records and ensure compliance with state law and regulation.
4. A school shall temporarily admit a student to or retain a student in a preschool or school if:
  - a. The student is homeless; or the student's parent or guardian is unable to provide proof of immunization pursuant to the requirements of this regulation.

5. In order for a student to be temporarily admitted to or retained in a preschool or school, the student's parent or guardian shall present evidence of the student's appointment with a health care provider or local health department to:
  - a. Receive a required immunization;
  - b. Reconstruct a lost record; or
  - c. Acquire evidence of age-appropriate immunity on a form provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
6. A preschool or school shall exclude from school a student who has been temporarily admitted or retained on the next school day following the appointment date if the student's parent or guardian fails to provide evidence of required immunizations.
7. Immunization requirements do not apply in the following circumstances:
  - a. A student who presents a licensed physician's or health officer's written statement that the student's immunization against disease is medically contraindicated.
  - b. A student whose parent(s) or guardian(s) objecting to immunization on the ground that the immunization conflicts with the parent's or guardian's bona fide religious beliefs and practices submits the form provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
    - (1) The religious exemption does not apply when the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene declares an emergency or epidemic of disease.

*Regulation History:* Developed by Office of the Superintendent: 9/5/07  
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*Note Previous History:* None