

**TITLE 310. OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHAPTER 535. IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS**

RULEMAKING ACTION:

EMERGENCY adoption

RULES:

Subchapter 1. Childhood Immunizations [AMENDED]

310:535-1-2 [AMENDED]

310:535-1-3 [AMENDED]

AUTHORITY:

Oklahoma State Commissioner of Health; Title 63 O.S. Section 1-104

ADOPTION:

July 23, 2020

EFFECTIVE:

September 12, 2020

EXPIRATION:

Effective through September 14, 2021, unless superseded by another rule or disapproved by the Legislature

SUPERSEDED EMERGENCY ACTIONS:

n/a

INCORPORATIONS BY REFERENCE:

n/a

FINDING OF EMERGENCY:

The proposed amended emergency rules in OAC 310:535-1-2 and OAC 310:535-1-3 are necessary to remove rules that conflict with Title 70 O.S., Section 1210.192, the statutory provision that governs exemptions from school immunizations. OAC 310:535-1-2 and OAC 310:535-1-3 condition the receipt of a personal or religious exemption from school immunizations upon receiving an approved brief instructional presentation provided by any local county health department regarding the risks associated with not being vaccinated and the benefits vaccinations provide to the individual and the community. Title 70 O.S., Section 1210.192 does not impose such a condition. It permits exemptions from school immunizations if a parent, guardian or legal custodian of a child submits either: a certificate of a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger the life or health of the child; or a written statement by the parent, guardian or legal custodian of the child objecting to immunization of the child. The child is then exempt from the immunization laws of Oklahoma. Rescission of the instructional presentation on immunizations as a prerequisite to receiving an exemption from immunizations is necessary to remove the conflicting regulations created by the rules.

GIST/ANALYSIS:

The emergency rules remove the requirement that conditions the receipt of an exemption from immunization requirements on first viewing an instructional presentation on the benefits and risks of immunizations. As a result, the emergency rules remove the rules that conflict with Title 70 O.S., Section 1210.192.

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PURSUANT TO THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED HEREIN, THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY RULES ARE CONSIDERED PROMULGATED UPON APPROVAL BY THE GOVERNOR AS SET FORTH IN 75 O.S., SECTION 253(F), WITH A LATER EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2020:

SUBCHAPTER 1. CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

310:535-1-2. Criteria for immunizations required

(a) Each child shall present certification that he or she has received or is receiving the immunizations as specified below before he or she is admitted to any public, private, or parochial school.

(b) Certification shall include the following:

(1) Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP/DTaP) vaccine in five doses unless the fourth dose is received on or after the fourth birthday in which case only four doses are required. If the doses are not completed by the seventh birthday, the series must be completed with Adult Td vaccine and/or Tdap vaccine based on the individual's age at the time the first dose was received and age at the time the series is completed and beginning with the fall 2011-12 school year one dose of Tdap vaccine for students entering the seventh grade. Each year following the 2011-12 school year, the Tdap requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the 2016-17 school year and all subsequent school years, students in grades seven through twelve shall be required to have received one dose of Tdap vaccine.

(2) Poliomyelitis vaccine in four doses unless the last dose is on or after the fourth birthday in which case only three doses are required. If the doses are not started or completed by the eighteenth birthday, no additional doses are required.

(3) Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine with the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose at least twenty-eight days thereafter for children in grades kindergarten through eighth grade in the school year beginning in 1998. In the school year beginning in 1999, this requirement shall apply to the children through the ninth grade. Each year thereafter the requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the school year beginning in 2002, children in all grades shall be required to have the second dose of vaccine.

(4) Hepatitis B vaccine in three doses for students of any age or two doses for students eleven through fifteen years of age who complete the alternative dosage schedule providing that the alternative schedule is fully documented. Such documentation must include the name of the vaccine and the dosage received for each dose of that vaccine:

(A) before entering seventh and eighth grades in 1998. In the school year beginning in 1999, this requirement shall apply to the children entering the seventh through ninth grades. Each year thereafter the requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the school year beginning in 2002, children in grades seven through twelve shall be required to have the three doses of the vaccine.

(B) before entering kindergarten in 1998. In the school year beginning in 1999, this requirement shall apply to the children entering kindergarten and first grade. Each year thereafter the requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the school year beginning in 2004, all children entering school shall be required to have the three doses of the vaccine.

(5) Hepatitis A vaccine in two doses with the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose six to eighteen calendar months later:

(A) before entering kindergarten in 1998. In the school year beginning in 1999, this requirement shall apply to the children entering kindergarten and first grade. Each year thereafter the requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the school year beginning in 2004, all children entering school shall be required to have the two doses of the vaccine.

(B) before entering grade seven in 1998. In the school year beginning in 1999, this requirement shall apply to the children entering the seventh and eighth grade. Each year thereafter the requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the school year beginning in 2003, children in grades seven through twelve shall be required to have the two doses of the vaccine.

(6) Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine in one dose on or after the first birthday: before entering kindergarten in 1998. In lieu of vaccination, a parent's statement of a history of the disease chickenpox will be accepted. In the school year beginning in 1999, this requirement shall apply to the children entering kindergarten and first grade. Each year thereafter the requirement shall be extended one grade level so that in the school year beginning in 2010, all children entering school shall be required to have the vaccine or a parent's statement of a history of the disease chickenpox.

- (c) The minimum intervals between doses and minimum ages for doses shall be as follows:
- (1) DTP/DTaP:
 - (A) First and second dose - 4 weeks
 - (B) Second and third dose - 4 weeks
 - (C) Third and fourth dose - 4 months
 - (D) Fourth and fifth dose - 6 months
 - (E) For all fifth doses given after January 1, 2003 the minimum age for the fifth dose is 4 years of age
 - (2) Polio:
 - (A) First and second dose - 4 weeks
 - (B) Second and third dose - 4 weeks
 - (C) Third and fourth dose - 4 weeks
 - (3) MMR: First and second dose - 4 weeks
 - (4) Hepatitis B 3-dose series:
 - (A) First and second dose - 1 month (4 weeks)
 - (B) Second and third dose - 2 months (8 weeks), and the third dose at least 4 months (16 weeks) after first dose, and the third dose not before 24 weeks of age
 - (5) Hepatitis B 2-dose series: First and second dose - 4 months
 - (6) Hepatitis A: First and second dose -- 6 months and for all doses given on or after January 1, 2003, 6 months will be defined as 6 calendar months
 - (7) Four day grace period: Vaccine doses administered 4 days or less before the minimum intervals or ages listed in the preceding sections will be counted as valid.
- (d) A child, through his parent or guardian, may apply for an exemption from this requirement by submitting a form to the Department. The school shall maintain a copy of the approved application in the child's records. All exemptions submitted prior to a student entering 7th grade shall expire at the end of the student's 6th grade year. A new exemption is required to be completed and submitted to the Oklahoma State Department of Health by the parent or guardian prior to enrolling the child in 7th grade.
- (1) A request for exemption for medical reasons shall contain a certificate signed by a physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child and that the child should be exempt for immunization.
 - (2) A request for exemption for religious or other personal reasons shall contain a signed written statement from the parent or guardian stating a summary of the objections. Lost or unobtainable immunization records are not a ground for personal exemption. ~~Religious and personal exemptions may be obtained after receiving an approved brief instructional presentation provided by any local county health department regarding the risks associated with not being vaccinated and the benefits vaccinations provide to the individual and the community. To be approved, the completed exemption form along with evidence of completed instruction is required.~~
- (e) A child participating in a pre-kindergarten school program shall have received or be in the process of receiving the appropriate immunization for the listed diseases based on the child's age.
- (f) The Department may grant exemptions or substitutions in the immunization schedule based on a medical history of a physical condition such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child or a medical history stating the child is likely to be immune as a result of having had a vaccine-preventable disease if the following are met:
- (1) A history of having had diphtheria and/or tetanus is not acceptable as proof of immunity since infection with diphtheria or tetanus may not render an individual immune to either of these diseases,
 - (2) A history of having had polio, pertussis, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, or hepatitis A must be supported by laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to these diseases,
 - (3) A history of having had measles must be accompanied by a statement from a physician, public health authority, or laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to measles,
 - (4) A parental history of having had varicella is acceptable evidence of immunity to varicella.
- (g) Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine is not a requirement for children attending pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or school.

(h) In some circumstances, the United States Food and Drug Administration may approve the use of an alternative dosage schedule for an existing vaccine. These alternative schedules may be used to meet the requirements only when the alternative schedule is fully documented. Such documentation must include the name of the vaccine and dosage received for each dose of that vaccine.

310:535-1-3. Criteria for immunizations required for child care

(a) Each child two months of age or older shall present certification that he or she has received or is receiving the immunizations as specified below before he or she is admitted to, and while enrolled in, a child care center or child care home.

(b) Certification shall include the following:

(1) 5 DTaP/DTP doses at 2, 4, 6, and 12 to 18 months and 4 to 6 years or beginning at 6 weeks of age with minimum intervals of 4 weeks between doses 1 and 2 and doses 2 and 3 and 4 months between doses 3 and 4 and 6 months between doses 4 and 5, with all fifth doses given on or after January 1, 2003 given on or after the fourth birthday; The fifth DTaP/DTP is not required if the fourth DTaP/DTP is administered on or after the fourth birthday;

(2) 4 Polio doses at 2, 4 and 6 to 18 months and 4 to 6 years or beginning at 6 weeks of age with minimum intervals of 4 weeks between all doses; The fourth Polio is not required if the third dose is given on or after the fourth birthday;

(3) 1 to 4 Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) doses at 2, 4, 6, and 12 to 15 months of age or older depending upon age at first Hib immunization and type of vaccine used or beginning at 6 weeks of age with minimum intervals of 4 weeks between doses 1, 2, and 3, if a third dose is part of the primary series, and the booster dose no earlier than 12 months of age and at least 8 weeks after the previous dose;

(4) 2 Measles, Mumps, Rubella doses with the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose at 4 to 6 years or at anytime after the first dose provided at least 4 weeks have elapsed since the receipt of the first dose;

(5) 1 Varicella dose on or after the first birthday;

(6) 2 Hepatitis A doses with the first dose on or after the first birthday and the second dose six to eighteen months later and for all doses given on or after January 1, 2003, 6 months will be defined as 6 calendar months;

(7) 3 Hepatitis B doses with minimum intervals as follows: 1 month (4 weeks) between doses 1 and 2, two months (8 weeks) between doses 2 and 3, four months (16 weeks) between doses 1 and 3, and dose 3 no earlier than 24 weeks of age;

(8) 1 to 4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) for children 2 months through 59 months of age at 2, 4, 6, and 12 to 15 months of age or older depending upon age at first PCV immunization with minimum intervals between doses as follows: 4 weeks between doses 1, 2, and 3 and 8 weeks between doses 3 and 4 or any dose given as the final dose at age >12 months.

(9) Vaccine doses administered 4 days or less before the minimum intervals or ages listed in the preceding sections will be counted as valid.

(c) In the event that the parent, guardian, or responsible adult presenting a child for admission to a child care facility certifies in writing that a family emergency exists, the immunization requirements shall be waived for a period not to exceed thirty days. No such waiver shall be knowingly permitted more than once for any child.

(d) Immunization records for children attending school-age programs are not required if those records are maintained by the school and are readily available.

(e) A child, through his parent or guardian, may apply for an exemption from this requirement by submitting a form to the Department. The child care center or child care home shall maintain a copy of the approved application in the child's records.

(1) A request for exemption for medical reasons shall contain a certificate signed by a physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child and that the child should be exempt for immunization.

(2) A request for exemption for religious or other personal reasons shall contain a signed written statement from the parent or guardian stating a summary of the objections. Lost or unobtainable immunization records are not a ground for personal exemption. Religious and personal exemptions may be obtained after receiving an approved brief instructional presentation provided by any local county health department regarding the risks associated with not being vaccinated and the benefits vaccinations provide to the individual and the community. To be approved, the completed exemption form along with evidence of completed instruction is required.

(f) The Department may grant exemptions or substitutions in the immunization schedule based on a medical history of a physical condition such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child or a medical history stating the child is likely to be immune as a result of having had a vaccine-preventable disease if the following are met:

- (1) A history of having had diphtheria and/or tetanus is not acceptable as proof of immunity since infection with diphtheria or tetanus may not render an individual immune to either of these diseases;
- (2) A history of having had polio, pertussis, rubella, mumps, or hepatitis A must be supported by laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to these diseases;
- (3) A history of having had measles must be accompanied by a statement from a physician, public health authority, or laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to measles;
- (4) A parental history of having had varicella is acceptable evidence of immunity to varicella.
- (5) A history of having had Hib before age two years is not acceptable as proof of immunity since infection with Hib prior to age two years may not render an individual immune.