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Reading Public Schools

Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow

Medical Requirements for School Admission

You are receiving this information in advance of your child's kindergarten enrollment so that you will have ample time to meet the requirements and provide physician documentation. We appreciate the return of all documentation at kindergarten registration to avoid any problems enrolling a student on the first day of kindergarten.

Immunizations: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Department of Education has determined that these are the required immunizations for school entry.

Please make sure to provide physician documentation of the following immunizations and test:

- 1. Two (2) doses of MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)**
- 2. Five (5) doses of DPT vaccine (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus), unless the fourth dose was given after the child's fourth birthday**
- 3. Four (4) doses of Polio vaccine, unless the third dose was given after the child's fourth birthday**
- 4. Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine**
- 5. Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine (or physician certification of chicken pox disease)**
- 6. Lead Screening Test– Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations require children to have been screened for lead poisoning as a condition for kindergarten entry.**

Medical Examination: It is also required that all children have a complete physical examination with vision screening and preferably a hearing screening by their health care provider prior to school admission.

Definition of Allowable Exemptions

There are two situations in which children who are not appropriately immunized may be admitted to school:

- 1) a **medical exemption** is allowed if a physician submits documentation attesting that an immunization is medically contraindicated; and
- 2) a **religious exemption** is allowed if a parent or guardian submits a written statement that immunizations conflict with their sincere religious beliefs.

The law states that medical and religious exemptions must be presented at the beginning of each school year.