

MEMORANDUM

City of Philadelphia

Date: 5-28-98

To: Stephanie L. Franklin-Suber, City Solicitor

From: Jeanne Reedy, Administrative Services Director, Records
Dept. *JR/M.C.*

Subject: **Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Governing the
Control of Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases
and Conditions**

The above Amendments, promulgated by The Department of Public Health were received in the Department of Records on 4-27-98 for filing and advertising.

Inasmuch as there were no requests for hearings these Amendments became effective midnight 5-27-98.

cc: Estelle B. Richman, Commissioner Department of Public Health
Susan Jacobson, Deputy Chief of Staff
John F. Domzalski, Deputy Health Commissioner
Robert Levenson, Director, Division of Disease Control



**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

PASSED:	
BOARD OF HEALTH:	03/10/98
LAW DEPARTMENT:	_____
RECORDS DEPARTMENT:	_____

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND
NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS**

THE PHILADELPHIA CODE
TITLE 6—HEALTH CODE
Section 6-201 Listing of Diseases
Section 6-210 Immunization

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS
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**HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRY**

WHEREAS, hepatitis B is a serious liver disease which is spread by exposure to the blood or body fluids of infected individuals. Hepatitis B vaccine has been available since 1982, but acute and chronic hepatitis B remains a serious health problem.

WHEREAS, universal vaccination of infants and young children became a policy in 1991, and recent audits show that 80-90% of Philadelphia's two year old children have been immunized. However, few children over the age of six have been protected and, since most new hepatitis B infections occur in late adolescence or early adulthood, this is the group that is rapidly approaching the age of greatest risk of acquiring the disease.

WHEREAS, vaccination of adolescents before they reach the age of experimentation with risky behaviors (unprotected sex, needle sharing) is an important strategy for hepatitis B prevention, which has proven difficult to implement. Studies show that adolescents average fewer than one physician visit a year, while three visits are necessary to complete the hepatitis B series. Middle-school based vaccination campaigns have proven successful, if labor-intensive, in many other cities and states. Increasingly, states are adopting a hepatitis B immunization requirement for middle school entry as a strategy to prevent hepatitis B infection in adolescents, which is a high risk group for hepatitis B infection.

Facts About Hepatitis B

1. It is 100 times more contagious than human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is spread by direct contact with an infected person or indirectly by contact with infected blood or body fluids, such as blood from a nosebleed or a skinned knee.
2. One in twenty Americans has or one day will have hepatitis B in the United States; 300,000 new persons are infected annually.
3. One-third of infected individuals have acute symptoms including jaundice, one-third have symptoms resembling flu or minor abdominal infection, while one-third have no symptoms.
4. Infected adolescents or adults have a 10% chance of becoming carriers, with the virus remaining in their blood streams for the rest of their lives. Only a blood test will reveal who is a carrier. Carriers, many of whom have no idea they are infected, are able to spread the disease to their nearest and dearest, including infants born to infected women. A third of carriers will develop cirrhosis or liver cancer and will die premature deaths.

5. There is no cure for hepatitis B; prevention is the key, but too few people have currently been immunized to slow the spread of the disease.
6. 64% of adolescents who develop acute hepatitis B do not have an identifiable risk factor, such as multiple sex partners, homosexuality, or intravenous (IV) drug use.

Adolescent immunization is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American School Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health, pursuant to its authority under Sections 6-201 and 6-210 of the Health Code of Philadelphia, hereby amends the Regulations Governing the Control of Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases and Conditions and recommends adopting the following hepatitis B vaccination requirements for all children entering the sixth grade as of 9/1/98 (the 1998-99 school year) in Philadelphia to read as follows:

As of 9/1/98,

- a) children entering, attending, or transferring to sixth grade in all schools in the City of Philadelphia will be required to have completed vaccination against hepatitis B, consisting of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, or three doses of any vaccine combination containing hepatitis B vaccine. The first dose shall have been administered on or after the child's date of birth, and the second dose shall have been administered no less than 28 days after the first dose, and the third dose shall have been administered no less than 56 days after the second dose;
- b) children entering, attending, or transferring to sixth grade in all schools in the City of Philadelphia as of 9/1/98 with no documented doses of hepatitis B vaccine shall receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine in order to be allowed into school. These children shall receive the second dose of hepatitis B vaccine no sooner than 28 days and no later than 56 days after receiving the first dose in order to remain in school; these children shall receive the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine no sooner than 56 days and no later than 5 months after the second dose;
- c) children entering, attending, or transferring to sixth grade in all schools in the City of Philadelphia as of 9/1/98 with only one documented dose of hepatitis B vaccine, shall receive the second dose of hepatitis B vaccine no soon than 28 days and no later than 56 days after receiving the first dose in order to remain in school; these children shall receive the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine no sooner than 56 days and no later than 5 months after the second dose;
- d) children entering, attending, or transferring to sixth grade in all schools in the City of Philadelphia as of 9/1/98 with only two documented doses of hepatitis B vaccine, shall receive the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine no sooner than 56 days and no later than 5 months after the second dose;
- e) children who present documented laboratory evidence of hepatitis B immunity shall not be required to receive the hepatitis B vaccine;
- f) children whose parent(s)/guardian(s)/primary caretaker(s) express in writing a religious or philosophical objection to vaccination shall not be required to receive hepatitis B vaccine;
- g) children with a physician's documented medical contraindication to hepatitis B vaccine shall not be required to receive the hepatitis B vaccine.

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE AND
NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

THE PHILADELPHIA CODE

TITLE 6—HEALTH CODE

Section 6-201 Listing of Diseases

Section 6-202 Responsibilities of Physicians, Osteopaths, Veterinarians and Other Persons

Section 6-210 Immunization

WHEREAS, Section 6-201 of the Health Code of Philadelphia authorizes the Board of Health to establish lists of reportable diseases and conditions, and

WHEREAS, Section 6-202 of the Health Code requires physicians who identify these reportable diseases and conditions designated by the Board, report the incidence of such diseases and conditions to the Department;

WHEREAS, immunization levels of Philadelphia's preschool population have been at unacceptably low levels which gives rise to preventable diseases in the population which can result in death;

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health is developing a computerized preschool immunization database and tracking system which will ultimately result in at least 90% of Philadelphia's children being fully immunized against vaccine preventable diseases by 24 months of age.

The BOARD OF HEALTH hereby amends the Regulations Governing the Control of Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases and Conditions to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the computerized database to be effective must contain all immunizations administered to all of Philadelphia's preschool-aged children.

The Board declares that all immunizations included in the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices/American Academy of Pediatrics (ACIP/AAP) recommended childhood immunization schedule for children ages 0 through 6 years are hereby made reportable to the Division of Disease Control.

Reportable immunizations include, but are not limited to, all doses of the following antigens administered to children 0 through 6 years of age:

- _____
Diphtheria -Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP), Pediatric Diphtheria-Tetanus (DT),
Diphtheria-Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP)
- _____
Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- _____
Oral Poliovirus (OPV), Inactivated Poliovirus (IPV)
- _____
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- _____
Varicella
- _____
Hepatitis B

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