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August 27, 1981

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Department of Records - 158 CH

REGULATIONS FOR REQUIRED IMMUNIZATION FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The above regulations promulgated by the Health Department were received in the Department of Records on July 27, 1981, for filing and advertising.

Inasmuch as there were no requests for hearings these regulations became effective August 27, 1981.

cc: Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., Health Commissioner

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
REGULATIONS FOR REQUIRED IMMUNIZATION
FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Pursuant to Section 6-210 of the Health Code of Philadelphia providing that:

1. Whenever it is necessary to control effectively the spread of communicable disease, the Department may, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Board, require the immunization of any person against any communicable disease listed and designated by the Board as one against which immunization is effective; the Board of Health of the City of Philadelphia adopts those regulations to require immunization as a condition for continued school attendance.

JUSTIFICATION

1. Since measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria and tetanus are serious diseases that cause significant medical problems such as encephalitis, mental retardation and death, and since many of these diseases spread easily in schools disrupting the normal education process, these regulations are necessary to protect not only the health of school children, but also the health of the public at large.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

2. All pupils in kindergarten through 12th grade attending any public, parochial, or private school in Philadelphia must be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, and tetanus as follows:

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- (1) Diphtheria. Three or more properly spaced doses of diphtheria toxoid, separately or in combination with tetanus toxoids or in combination with tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine.
- (2) Tetanus. Three or more properly spaced doses of tetanus toxoid, which may be administered separately, in combination with diphtheria toxoids or in combination with diphtheria toxoids and pertussis vaccine.
- (3) Poliomyelitis. Three or more properly spaced doses of trivalent oral polio vaccine, or at least three doses of monovalent oral vaccine or at least four properly spaced doses of inactivated polio vaccine if inactivated vaccine is recommended as an appropriate agent by a physician.
- (4) Measles (Rubeola). One dose of live attenuated measles vaccine administered at 12 months of age or older. A physician diagnosis of measles shall be accepted if supported by standard serological tests.
- (5) German Measles (Rubella). One dose of live attenuated rubella vaccine administered at 12 months of age or older.
- (6) Mumps. One dose of live attenuated mumps vaccine administered at 12 months of age or older. A history of clinical mumps verified by a physician shall also be accepted as proof of mumps immunity.

Such immunization or evidence thereof shall be a required condition for continued attendance in accordance with Paragraph 4 except as hereinafter exempted. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in exclusion of that pupil from school.

3. Exemption From Immunization Requirement

(a) Medical Exemption. Children need not be immunized if a physician or his designee provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the child. When the physician determines that immunization is no longer detrimental to the health of the child, the child shall be immunized.

(b) Religious Exemption. Children need not be immunized if the parent or guardian objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds, or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.

(c) Immunization in Series. Children need not be completely immunized if he or she is in the process of receiving a series of immunizations and produces evidence thereof.

Implementation

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health shall collaborate with the School District of Philadelphia and the Department shall determine, after consultation with the School District, the time schedule and procedure for the implementation of these Regulations.

NOTE: See 28 Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 23, Section 23.83 relating to immunization requirements for admission to school for the first time.