

Chapter HSS 144

IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS

HSS 144.01	Introduction	HSS 144.07	Responsibilities of schools and day care centers
HSS 144.02	Definitions	HSS 144.08	Responsibilities of local public health agencies
HSS 144.03	Minimum immunization requirements	HSS 144.09	Responsibilities of the department
HSS 144.04	Waiver for health reasons		
HSS 144.05	Waiver for reason of religious or personal conviction		
HSS 144.06	Responsibilities of parents and adult students		

Note: Chapter H 44 as it existed on June 30, 1981, was repealed and a new chapter HSS 144 was created, effective July 1, 1981.

**HSS 144.01 Introduction.** (1) **PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.** The purpose of immunization is to prevent disease and suffering and any permanent disability resulting from the disease. These rules implement s. 140.05 (16), Stats., which as public policy seeks to identify and immunize those students who are still susceptible to measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis upon admission to an elementary, middle, junior or senior high school or a day care center, in order to prevent transmission of these diseases.

(2) **RELATIONSHIP TO INFANT AND PRESCHOOL IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES.** The emphasis placed in this chapter on meeting minimum immunization requirements upon entry to Wisconsin schools at any grade level or to a day care center complements efforts by the department to promote early immunization of infants and preschoolers according to accepted immunization schedules. Children immunized according to accepted immunization schedules will exceed the minimum requirements set forth herein for all ages and grades.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; am. (1), Register, June, 1988, No. 390, eff. 7-1-88.

**HSS 144.02 Definitions.** (1) "Day care center" has the meaning prescribed in s. 48.65, Stats., and includes nursery schools that fit that definition.

(2) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of health and social services unless otherwise specified.

(3) "DTP/DT/Td" means any combination of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine; pediatric type diphtheria and tetanus vaccine; or adult type tetanus and diphtheria vaccine.

(4) "Local public health agency" means any agency or official specified in ss. 140.09, 141.01, 141.015, 141.02, 141.04, 141.06, Stats.

(5) "Municipality" means any town, village, city or county.

(6) "Parent" means the parent, parents, guardian, legal custodian, or person or persons acting in loco parentis of any minor student.

(7) "Physician" has the meaning prescribed in s. 448.01 (5), Stats., namely a person holding a license or certificate of registration from the medical examining board and includes physicians, surgeons and osteopaths.

(8) "School" means any public or private elementary, middle, junior or senior high school, which provides educational instruction to students in any grade kindergarten through 12, or in an ungraded educational setting, or to preschool children enrolled in early childhood programs.

(9) "School day" in reference to schools has the meaning prescribed in s. 115.01 (10), Stats. A school day for a day care center is any day that the center is open and caring for children.

(10) "Student" means any individual enrolled in a school or day care center or attending a school or day care center.

(11) "Subsided" in reference to substantial outbreak means passage of 2 incubation periods for the disease causing the outbreak without additional cases unless a shorter period of time is judged adequate by the department.

(12) "Substantial outbreak" means an occurrence of a vaccine-preventable disease covered by s. 140.05 (16), Stats., in a given school or municipality with an incidence exceeding one of the following, whichever is smaller:

(a) Twice the incidence of that disease in the nation as a whole;

(b) The following absolute limits:

1. Measles—2% of the susceptible population involved becomes infected;

2. Mumps—2% of the susceptible population involved becomes infected;

3. Rubella—2% of the susceptible population involved becomes infected;

4. Polio—2 cases of the same wild-virus type in a 90 day period;

5. Pertussis—2 cases in a 30 day period; and

6. Diphtheria—1 case.

(13) "Written evidence of immunization" means a record of at least the month and year that each required dose of vaccine was administered or the results of a laboratory test indicating immunity to the disease. Students who have not previously attended a Wisconsin school and who enter after the 1980-81 school year must provide the month, day and year for each required dose of vaccine.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; r. and recr. (12)(b), Register, June, 1988, No. 390, eff. 7-1-88.

**HSS 144.03 Minimum immunization requirements. (1) INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED.** The minimum immunization requirements authorized by s. 140.05 (16), Stats., apply to any student admitted to a Wisconsin elementary, middle, junior or senior high school or to a Wisconsin day care center.

**(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR.** (a) Table 144.03-A as qualified by pars. (b) to (d) lists the number of doses of each required vaccine that each student in the 1990-91 school year shall have received since birth for the age or grade of the student. These comprise the minimum basic and recall booster immunizations required under s. 140.05

Register, October, 1991, No. 430

(16), Stats. They do not, however, represent all the recommended immunizations for those individuals who begin immunizations in infancy and follow currently accepted immunization schedules.

TABLE 144.03-A

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR THE 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR

Age/Grade	Required Immunizations (Number of Doses)				
15 months through 23 months	3 DTP/DT,	2 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
2 years through 4 years	4 DTP/DT,	3 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
Kindergarten	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps
Grades 1 - 5	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
Grade 6	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps
Grades 7 through 10	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
Grade 11	3 DTP/DT/Td,	3 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
Grade 12	3 DTP/DT/Td,	3 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps

(b) Immunization against measles, mumps and rubella shall have been received on or after the date of the first birthday.

(c) Exceptions may be made in requirements for the fourth dose of DTP/DT/Td vaccine and the fourth dose of polio vaccine. Children who receive the third dose of either of these vaccines after their fourth birthday are not required to receive a fourth dose of that vaccine.

(d) For students in ungraded schools or students age 5 or older in day care centers, the immunization requirements are those for the grade which would normally correspond to the individual's age. Immunization against measles, mumps and rubella is also required for all students age 19 or older.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL YEARS FOLLOWING 1990-91. (a) For 1991-92 to 1995-96 school years. For the 1991-92 to 1995-96 school years:

1. The requirements in Table 144.03-A, as qualified by sub. (2) (b) to (d), that apply to students 15 months of age through kindergarten and the DTP/DT/Td and polio requirements for students in grades 1 through 10 shall remain the same as in the 1990-1991 school year;

2. The requirements in Table 144.03-A, as qualified by sub. (2) (b) to (d), that apply to 10th graders for immunization against DTP/DT/Td and polio shall apply to 11th graders beginning in 1991-92 and to 12th graders beginning in 1992-93; and

3. The requirements in Table 144.03-A, as qualified by sub. (2) (b) to (d), that apply to kindergartners, 6th graders and 12th graders for measles, rubella and mumps shall apply to students in grades K, 1, 6, 7 and 12 in 1991-92; K, 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 12 in 1992-93; K, 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 in 1993-94; K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 in 1994-95; and K to 12 in 1995-96. The requirements for the 1995-96 school year are shown in Table 144.03-B.

Note: To illustrate, the grade-specific requirements for the 1991-92 school year would be:

Register, October, 1991, No. 430

Grade	Required Immunizations (Number of Doses)				
Kindergarten through 1	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps
2 - 5	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
6 - 7	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps
8 - 11	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
12	3 DTP/DT/Td,	3 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps

(b) For 1996-97 and subsequent school years. Immunization requirements for students in school years beginning in 1996-97 shall be the same as the requirements for the 1995-96 school year, as qualified by sub. (2) (b) to (d). See Table 144.03-B.

TABLE 144.03-B

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR THE 1995-96 SCHOOL YEAR AND FOR SCHOOL YEARS FOLLOWING THE 1995-96 SCHOOL YEAR

Age/Grade	Required Immunizations (Number of Doses)				
15 months through 23 months	3 DTP/DT,	2 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
2 years through 4 years	4 DTP/DT,	3 Polio,	1 Measles,	1 Rubella,	1 Mumps
Kindergarten through grade 12	4 DTP/DT/Td,	4 Polio,	2 Measles,	2 Rubella,	2 Mumps

(4) **FIRST DEADLINE.** Within 30 school days after having been admitted to a school or day care center, each student who has not filed a waiver form shall submit written evidence of having completed at least the first dose of each vaccine required for that student's age or grade.

(5) **SECOND DEADLINE.** Within 90 school days after having been admitted to a school or day care center, each student who has not filed a waiver form shall submit written evidence of having received the second dose of measles, rubella and mumps vaccines and at least the second dose of both DTP/DT/Td and polio vaccines required for that student's age or grade.

(6) **FINAL DEADLINE.** Within 30 school days after having been admitted to a school or day care center for the following school year, each student who has not filed a waiver form shall submit written evidence of having received the third and, if required, the fourth dose of both DTP/DT/Td and polio vaccines.

(7) **RECORDS OF VACCINATION.** Any person who immunizes a student under s. 140.05 (16), Stats., shall maintain records identifying the manufacturer and lot number of the vaccine used, the date of immunization and the name and title of the person who immunized the student. Records of vaccination required under s. 140.05 (16) (a), Stats., shall be included on a form, "Important Information About Vaccines," copies of which are available free from the department at 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; r. and recr. (2) and (3), am. (4) to (6), Register, June, 1988, No. 390, eff. 7-1-88; am. (2) (a) to (d), (3) (a) and (b), r. (2) (e), Register, January, 1989, No. 397, eff. 2-1-89; am. (2) (a), (4) and (5), r. and recr. (3), tables 144.03-A and B, Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90.

**HSS 144.04 Waiver for health reasons.** Upon certification by a licensed physician that an immunization required under s. 140.05 (16), Stats., is or may be harmful to the health of a student, the requirements for that immunization shall be waived by the department. Written evidence of any required immunization which the student has previously received shall be submitted to the school or day care center with the waiver form.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81.

**HSS 144.05 Waiver for reason of religious or personal conviction.** Immunization requirements under s. 140.05 (16), Stats., shall be waived by the department upon presentation of a signed statement by the parent or guardian of a minor student or by the adult student which declares an objection to immunization on religious or personal conviction grounds. Written evidence of any required immunization which the student has previously received shall be submitted to the school or day care center with the waiver form.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81.

**HSS 144.06 Responsibilities of parents and adult students.** The parent of any minor student or the student, if an adult, shall secure the immunizations required under s. 140.05 (16), Stats., from available medical sources such as physicians, hospitals or public health agencies, or shall submit the waiver form.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81.

**HSS 144.07 Responsibilities of schools and day care centers.** The responsibilities of schools under these rules shall be those of the local school board and the school administrator. The licensee for each day care center shall be responsible for compliance with these rules. The school or day care center shall assure compliance with s. 140.05 (16) (b), Stats.

(1) The school or day care center shall notify any adult student and the parent of any minor student who has not submitted either written evidence of immunization or a waiver form within 25 school days of being admitted. Notification shall include instructions for complying with the s. 140.05 (16), Stats., including a list of missing immunizations, the availability of waivers for reasons of health, religion or personal conviction, and an explanation of the penalty for noncompliance.

(2) For any student who has received the first dose of each immunization required for that student's age or grade under s. HSS 144.03, but who has not received all of the required doses, the school shall obtain written evidence that the student has received the required subsequent doses of immunization as they are administered, but no later than the deadlines described in s. HSS 144.03.

(3) Should any minor student for whom a waiver form is not filed fail to comply with the immunization requirements described in s. HSS 144.03, the school or day care center shall, within 10 school days of that failure to comply, notify the district attorney in writing including the student's name and the name and address of the student's parent and request the district attorney to seek a court order under ch. 48, Stats. The school or day care center shall keep the district attorney apprised of the subsequent compliance of any of the students initially reported to the district attorney.

(4) The school shall report to the local public health agency and the day care center shall report to the department:

(a) The degree of compliance with s. 140.05 (16), Stats., by students in that school or day care center; and

(b) The name and immunization history of any incompletely immunized student, including those students with waivers and those students in the process of being immunized.

(c) These reports shall be in a format prescribed by the department and shall be made by schools within 40 school days after the beginning of the term and by day care centers at intervals prescribed by the department. Updated reports shall be filed by the school on students who are in the process of being immunized. These updated reports shall be filed within 10 school days after the deadlines listed in s. HSS 144.03.

(5) The school and the day care center shall maintain on file the immunization history for each student and any waiver form submitted. Immunization histories shall be updated with information supplied by the local public health agency, parents, or private physicians.

(6) The school or day care center shall maintain a current roster listing the name and immunization history of each student who does not meet all immunization requirements for that student's grade or age.

(7) The immunization record of any student who transfers from one school or day care center to another shall be forwarded to the new school or day care center within 10 school days of the request for record transfer. The records of day care students shall be transferred to a school if requested.

(8) All suspected cases of diseases covered by s. 140.05 (16) (a), Stats., which occur among students or staff shall be reported immediately by telephone to the local public health agency.

(9) If one of the diseases covered by s. 140.05 (16) (a), Stats., occurs in a student or staff member, the school or day care center shall assist the local public health agency and the department in immediately identifying any unimmunized students, notifying their parents of the possible exposure, and facilitating the disease control activities.

(10) If a substantial outbreak as defined in s. HSS 144.02 (12) occurs in a school or day care center, or in the municipality in which a school or day care center is located, the school or day care center shall exclude students who have not received all required immunizations against the disease, including students in all grades who have not had 2 doses of measles vaccine when it is an outbreak of measles that is occurring, when ordered to do so by the department. The exclusion shall last until the student is immunized or until the department determines that the outbreak has subsided.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; am. (10), Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90.

**HSS 144.08 Responsibilities of local public health agencies.** (1) Each local public health agency shall be responsible for making available those immunizations required under s. 140.05 (16), Stats., insofar as the vaccine is available without charge from the department. Vaccines made available free from the department shall be administered without charge  
Register, October, 1991, No. 430

to the patient. By mutual agreement, responsibility for making the needed immunizations available may be transferred from the local public health agency to a school or day care center.

(2) By November 15 of each year each local public health agency shall report to the department statistical information concerning the degree of compliance with s. 140.05 (16), Stats., of students within its service area. These reports shall be made on a form prescribed by the department.

(3) The local public health agency shall assist the department in informing schools and day care centers of the provisions of s. 140.05 (16), Stats., and this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81.

**HSS 144.09 Responsibilities of the department.** (1) The department, in cooperation with local school boards, school administrators and other agencies as appropriate, shall provide guidance to parents, physicians, schools and local public health agencies in understanding the minimum immunization requirements, the reasons behind their establishment and the process for implementing them.

(a) The department shall undertake a public awareness campaign to acquaint parents with the requirements and rights under s. 140.05 (16), Stats.

(b) The department shall design, print and distribute the appropriate reporting and waiver forms. Copies of these forms are available free from the department at 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702.

(2) A surveillance system designed to detect occurrences of vaccine preventable diseases covered by s. 140.05 (16), Stats., shall be maintained by the department and outbreaks shall be investigated to confirm the diagnosis and to determine the source and probable pattern of spread of the infection.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81.