

# Connecticut's School Immunization Requirements

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## Issue

Provide an overview of Connecticut's school immunization requirements.

## School Immunization Requirements

For school children, Connecticut law requires immunization against the following diseases (the specific immunization schedule varies by disease):

1. measles, mumps, and rubella;
2. polio;
3. diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis;
4. hemophilus influenza B (required only if under age 5);
5. hepatitis B;
6. hepatitis A;
7. varicella (chicken pox);
8. influenza (required only for preschool);
9. pneumonia (required only if under age 5); and
10. meningitis (required beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade) ([CGS § 10-204a](#) and [Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-204a-1 et seq.](#)).

The same requirements for school children apply to staff and participants at child care settings, including day care centers, family and group day care homes, and youth camps. Municipal day

camps are not licensed by the state and are therefore exempt from immunization requirements ([Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 19-a-79-6a, 19a-87b-10\(k\)](#) and [19a-428-3](#)).

DPH's [website](#) includes the full immunization schedule for children in child care settings (see also [CGS §§ 19a-79\(a\)](#) and [-87b\(f\)](#), [Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 19a-79-6a\(e\)](#), and [19a-87b-10\(k\)](#)).

Connecticut law also generally requires full-time students attending in-state post-secondary institutions to provide proof of adequate immunization against measles, mumps, and rubella and chicken pox ([CGS § 10a-155](#)). The law also requires each student who lives in on-campus housing to be vaccinated against meningitis ([CGS § 10a-155b](#)).

## **Exemptions**

### ***Medical Exemptions***

Connecticut law provides a medical exemption from the above immunization requirements to a child who presents a (1) DPH medical exemption [form](#) and (2) signed letter from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that the immunization is medically contraindicated. The letter must include the child's name and birth date as well as the vaccine for which the exemption is being filed and the medical condition that contraindicates the vaccine ([CGS § 10-204a](#) & [Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-204a et seq.](#)).

### ***Religious Exemptions***

The state also allows nonmedical exemptions for religious reasons. Specifically, Connecticut law allows parents or guardians to opt out of vaccinating their children if they present a statement that immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of the child, parents, or guardian. The exemption statement must be officially acknowledged by one of certain individuals (such as a notary public, town clerk, or school nurse). The parents or guardian must submit the religious exemption statement (1) before the student enrolls in public or private school and (2) before the student enrolls in seventh grade ([CGS § 10-204a](#)). DPH has prepared a [standard form](#) for parents or guardians seeking a religious exemption.

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