

## New School Entry Immunization Requirements Effective August 2008

The Immunization Program at the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont health care providers work closely together to reduce the occurrence of vaccine-preventable disease. In an effort to continue to prevent the introduction and transmission of vaccine preventable diseases in the school setting the Health Department recently updated the school entry immunization requirements.

The new requirements apply to all students entering kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade and to any student newly enrolling into a school, regardless of grade. For the latter, students must meet the same requirements as for kindergarten (for students entering grade 1-6) or the 7<sup>th</sup> grade (for students entering grade 8-12). The new requirements also apply to students enrolling into a post-secondary school, though specific schools and students are not required to comply. For questions on the latter, please contact the Immunization Program.

### New Immunization Requirements

In accordance with ACIP recommendations on the scheduling of vaccinations and on minimal intervals between doses, allowing for the ACIP-approved four-day grace period:

**Students entering kindergarten** will be required to have received the following:

- 5 DTaP – 4 if the 4<sup>th</sup> dose was given on/after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 4 Polio – 3 if the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose was given on/after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 2 Measles
- 2 Mumps
- 2 Rubella
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 Varicella – waived if the parent of guardian presents a Department-supplied form indicating the student has a history of disease

**Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade** will be required to have received **all of the above and the following:**

- 1 Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (only for students attending residential-based schools such as boarding schools who live at these facilities)
- 1 Tdap booster

**Students entering a post-secondary school** will be required to have received the following:

- 1 Tdap/Td booster administered within the past 10 years
- 2 Measles
- 2 Mumps
- 2 Rubella
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (only for first year students living in dormitories)
- 2 Varicella – waived if a student presents a Department-supplied form indicating a history of disease

Vermont law allows parents and students to exempt out of vaccinations for medical, religious or moral reasons. However, the appropriate form must be provided to claim an exemption. This form is available at schools or through the Immunization Program. The American Academy of Pediatrics has developed information that can provide the context for a discussion about the importance of immunizations, and the risks associated with the decision not to immunize.

To obtain this form, or for more information please call the Immunization Program at (802)863-7638 or (800)464-4343 (ext. 7638). To view the new immunization regulations, please visit the following website:

<http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/index.aspx>

### Contents:

#### New School Vaccine Regulations

#### Chart: Selected Reportable Diseases January - 2008

The *Infectious Disease Bulletin* can be viewed at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/IDB/index.aspx>

For questions & comments, please contact Mary Spayne at (802)863-7240

