



## Frequently Asked Questions about ACHD School Immunization Law Reports

**1. If I send the report to ACHD, does it fulfill the obligation to complete the state PA DOH report form?**

No, because the ACHD's school immunization regulations and reports are separate.

**2. If a student has had varicella disease, how is this student counted in the Immunization Law Report?**

Students entering grades K through 12 with a prior history of varicella disease reported by a parent and documented in the school record before September 2008 are considered immune and require no further follow-up. All other students who report a history of varicella disease will need to provide a written statement from their physician/designee indicating month and year of disease or serologic proof of immunity. With appropriate documentation, the student with a history of varicella disease would be counted in Column A, Complete Immunizations.

**3. An immunization history shows that a student in grades 7-12 had Td vaccine less than 5 years ago. Is Tdap required and when? How is the student counted?**

Tdap can be administered 5 years after the last tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine. Students who have had a Td vaccine in the last 5 years are considered up to date. Include that child in column A on the School Immunization Report Summary indicating immunizations are complete. Do not count them as provisional. Flag their immunization record and remind their parent/guardian to vaccinate with Tdap at the appropriate time.

**4. What is a provisional enrollment?**

Any student in K-12 grade may be provisionally admitted to school only if evidence of **at least one dose of each antigen** is given to the school administration/designee and the parent or guardian's plan for completion of the required immunizations is made part of the child's health record. The plan for completion of the required immunizations shall be reviewed every 60 days.

**5. How do we handle students who have no proof of vaccination?**

Students without proof of vaccination are to be excluded at the beginning of the school year unless their parent obtains an exemption for medical or religious reasons.

**6. What about meningococcal meningitis (MCV4) and tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) vaccines for grades 7-12?**

Because MCV4 and Tdap immunizations are not a series, there is no provisional enrollment period. Students in grades 7-12 must have MCV4 and Tdap (if 5 years have elapsed since last tetanus immunization).

**7. A student had Tdap vaccine between 7-10 years of age. Will this dose meet the Tdap requirement for grades 7-12?**

Yes. At this time, there is no booster dose of Tdap recommended.

**8. A student had MCV4 vaccine before 10 years of age. Will this dose meet the MCV4 requirement for grades 7-12?**

No. Any meningococcal vaccination given prior to the tenth birthday (either with MCV4 or MPSV4) does NOT count toward routinely recommended doses.

**9. What is the 4 day grace period?**

A vaccine dose administered within the 4-day period prior to the end of the minimum age for the vaccination or prior to the end of the minimum interval between doses shall be considered a valid dose of the vaccine. For example, a MMR vaccine administered 1 to 4 days before the first birthday can be counted as a valid dose. Another example concerns Hepatitis B doses. Using the 4 day grace period, it is acceptable to have 108 days between dose 1 and 3 or 52 days between dose 2 and 3. The grace period may not be used with the 28-day minimum interval between two live vaccines.

**10. What if a student has vaccine doses administered at less than the minimum interval?**

Doses administered at less than the recommended minimal intervals or at less than the standard dose may decrease the antibody response to the vaccine and should not be counted as a valid dose. The person should be revaccinated. If a child has all doses specified of a certain antigen, BUT one of the shots was given too early (which makes it an invalid dose), then that child would be counted in the Provisional Column (Column D) because the child doesn't have the required number of valid doses.

*Updated August 2013*