



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

August 27, 2019

**MEDICAL UPDATE: NEW IMMUNIZATION RULES ALIGN  
WITH NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Updates to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-157, Examination and Immunization requirements for school entry (last amended in 2001) have been signed by Governor Ige. These updates to the immunization requirements align with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/downloads/general-recs.pdf>) and will therefore likely reflect your present medical practices.

Beginning July 1, 2020 for the 2020–21 school year, immunizations already recommended by the ACIP in the interval since 2001 but not previously included in Hawaii's immunization rules will be required for students entering preschool, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and colleges and universities in Hawaii. Additionally, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be required to have received tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap), human papillomavirus (HPV), and meningococcal conjugate (MCV) vaccines before the first day of school. Students who are up-to-date according to the current ACIP recommended vaccination schedule will be in compliance with the new requirements.

Options for religious or medical exemptions remain unchanged, although forms to request exemptions have been updated. A new form for medical exemptions from the requirements for specific immunizing agents will allow practitioners to certify the student has a contraindication or precaution to a specific vaccine and a specific period of time, in conformance with recognized standard medical practices. Completed medical exemption forms shall be submitted to the school and maintained in the student's health record. In addition, issuing practitioners shall forward a copy of the form to the Department of Health.

The Department of Health is in the process of printing copies of the updated Hawaii Administrative Rules, an Immunization Requirements Summary, and the medical exemption form, which will be distributed in October 2019. In the meantime, you may review the new requirements at <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/vaccines-immunizations/school-health-requirements/sy-20-21/>.

If you have any questions, please call the Immunization Branch at 586-8300. We appreciate your support during the amendment process and look forward to your continued assistance in implementing the new requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Y. Park".

Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP  
State Epidemiologist