The school immunization regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in the commonwealth are protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

GUIDELINES FOR VACCINATIONS:

• A child must have a single dose vaccine on the first day or risk exclusion.
• In the case of a multi-dose vaccine, a child must have at least one dose of the vaccine on school entry or risk exclusion.
• If the child has at least one dose of a vaccine, and additional doses of a vaccine are necessary and are medically appropriate during the first five days of school, the child must either obtain final dose or have the next scheduled dose and provide a medical certificate scheduling remaining doses.
• If the child has at least one dose and additional doses of a vaccine are necessary but are not medically appropriate during the first five days of school, the child may provide a medical certificate on or before the fifth day scheduling the remaining doses.
• A child may still obtain a medical, religious or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction exemption from meeting the immunization requirements.
• Per CDC recommendations: For children aged 7-10 who are fully vaccinated, if Tdap is administered inadvertently or as part of the catch-up series, the Tdap dose should not be counted as valid. The adolescent Tdap dose should be administered as recommended when this child is aged 11-12 years.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND DESIGNEES:

• Requirement to review medical certificate and child's compliance at least every 30 days.
• Ability to exclude a child who does not comply with the dates in the submitted medical certificate.
• Exempting a child who is homeless from exclusion by following the McKinney Vento Act.
• Exempting a child who is transferring from a school or country outside the commonwealth and cannot provide records from exclusion for 30-days.
• Providing limited waiver of vaccine requirements in the event of a disaster impacting ability of children transferring into a school to provide records, or in the event of a nationally recognized vaccine shortage.
• Reporting period due electronically by December 31.

FIND MORE DETAILS ON SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS:
don'twaitvaccinate.pa.gov