SCHOOL VACCINATION INFORMATION FOR NURSES

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 the final dose or have the next dose scheduled and provide a medical certificate showing the scheduling of the 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 medical, religious or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction exemption from meeting the immunization requirements may be obtained.
• Per CDC recommendations, routine vaccination: Adolescents age 11–12 years: 1 dose Tdap
  Catch-up vaccination: Tdap administered at 7–10 years:
  -Children age 7–9 years who receive Tdap should receive the routine Tdap dose at age 11–12 years.
  -Children age 10 years who receive Tdap do not need to receive the routine Tdap dose at age 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.
• Data for reporting period due electronically by December 31st each year.

FIND MORE DETAILS ON SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REGULATIONS:
https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/immunizations/Pages/School.aspx