

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, VISUAL EVALUATION, AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS IN NEBRASKA SCHOOLS

Health Services Department Lincoln Public Schools

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-214 (3), 79-217 and Chapter 3 of Title NAC, Control of Communicable Disease (Revised) require:

1. Physical Examination: Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse within 6 months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade. No such examination shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.
2. Visual Evaluation: Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within 6 months, prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade. The vision evaluation must consist of testing for internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity. Contact the school nurse or call 436-1657 for information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations for families who qualify. No such evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.
3. Immunization: Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, Hepatitis B, and varicella, in schedules of doses conforming to state guidelines, are required of all students in all grades. A signed statement of past history of chicken pox disease; including year of illness may be submitted to meet the varicella requirement. Beginning July 2010, one Tdap is also required for entry to 7th grade.
4. The cost of physical examination, visual evaluation, and immunization shall be borne by the parent or guardian.

The statute further provides that immunizations will not be required for a student's enrollment in any school in the state if he or she submits to the school any of the following:

- A. A statement signed by a physician, a physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the health care provider's opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.
- B. An affidavit signed by the student, or if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.
- C. For measles, mumps, rubella, or hepatitis B, laboratory evidence of immunity, including name of laboratory, date of test, name of test, test result, signature of lab technician or laboratory director, and date of signature. For the purposes of the statute, clinical history of the disease does not constitute evidence of immunity.
- D. A student may be provisionally enrolled in a school when:
 1. The student has begun the immunizations required and continues to receive the immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible.
 2. The parent or guardian of a student meeting the military requirement in section 79-222 submits a written statement certifying that the student has received the required immunizations and proof of immunization is given within 60 days.

Please note: In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease, unimmunized students will be excluded from school.

Waiver forms are available in each school health office.