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Kindergarten Immunization Requirements and Check-up Recommendations February 2024

Preparing to send your child to school can be both exciting and stressful. Immunizations are a necessary and important part of getting ready for school. You can help your child's transition to kindergarten by having immunizations updated before the school year begins.

State law **requires the following immunizations before entering kindergarten:**

- **DTP/DTaP:** 5 doses completed by kindergarten entrance are recommended. However, a child who has received a 3rd dose or subsequent doses after the 4th birthday meets the requirements.
- **Polio:** 4 doses given at any age are recommended. If your child received the 3rd dose of polio after the 4th birthday further doses are not required.
- **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses
- **MMR:** 2 doses - The first dose must have been on or after the first birthday.
- **Varicella (chickenpox vaccine):** 2 doses or a history of having the chicken pox disease

Every child must be compliant by 30th day of school. Compliant is defined by having the required quantities and vaccinations mentioned above or having a waiver on file. Immunizations may be waived for health reasons, religious beliefs, or personal conviction by listing the vaccines and providing parent signature. A medical provider's signature is required for waivers related to health reasons.

In addition to medical providers, Portage County Health Department offers childhood immunizations on Tuesdays from 2-5:30 pm for children (through age 18) meeting the following criteria:

- Children with Badgercare /Forward Health / Medicaid Insurance
- Children without insurance or insurance does not cover vaccines
- Children who are American Indian or Alaskan Native

**Location for vaccine clinic: 3349 Church St., Suite 1, Stevens Point, WI 54481*

More information on childhood vaccinations and Wisconsin childhood immunization law:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html
<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm>

Other Kindergarten Preparation Considerations:

- If your child has a known health condition or a new health condition, be sure to include that information on school registration forms. The school nurse will review this information and may contact you as needed.
- The State of Wisconsin encourages parents of Kindergartners to arrange for their child's eyes to be examined by an optometrist or evaluated by December 31st of the child's first year in school. Screenings are provided for hearing and vision but may not detect all concerns.

On behalf of Portage County Public Health, I wish your child a healthy and successful school experience. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact your school nurse or the Division of Public Health at 715-345-5350, option 8.

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