

Effective Date: March 5, 2012

PURPOSE

Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc. (“Vatterott”) has established this addendum to clarify its requirements and expectations regarding immunizations for students attending Vatterott schools located in the state of Tennessee.

COVERED PERSONS

All Tennessee students enrolled on a full time basis on or after August 1, 2011.

ISSUING DEPARTMENT

Student Affairs

POLICY

Who Must Be Immunized

- In accordance with Tennessee Department of Health Rule 1200-14-1-.29, all students enrolled in one of Vatterott’s Tennessee schools on a full time basis on or after August 1, 2011, must be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chickenpox).
- In addition, all health science students that are expected to have patient contact must also be immunized against hepatitis B.

Establishing Immunization

There are three ways a student may establish that he or she is immune to measles, mumps and rubella.

- First, if the student was born before 1957 it is assumed that he or she is immune.
- Second, the student may present documentation of two doses of the vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella given at least twenty-eight days apart (doses given earlier than four days before the student’s first birthday must be excluded).
- Third, the student may present documentation of a blood test (serology) showing immunity to all three diseases.

There are four ways a student may establish that he or she is immune to varicella (chickenpox).

- First, if the student was born before 1980 it is assumed that he or she is immune.
- Second, the student’s healthcare provider may attest to the fact that the student has already had varicella (chickenpox).
- Third, the student may present documentation of two doses of the varicella vaccine given at least twenty-eight days apart (as with the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, doses given earlier than four days before the student’s first birthday must be excluded).
- Fourth, the student may present documentation of a blood test (serology) showing immunity to varicella.

All health science students expected to have contact with patients also are required to obtain a hepatitis B vaccination. There are two ways a student may establish that he or she is immune to hepatitis B.

- First, the student may present documentation of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.
- Second, the student may present documentation of a blood test (serology) showing immunity to hepatitis B.

Exceptions to Immunization Requirements

There are two valid exemptions to these requirements. First, if a physician or health department indicates that a student is medically exempted from receiving a vaccine or immunization because of a risk of harm. Second, if vaccination is in conflict with the student's religion. This religious exemption requires that the student provide a signed statement that vaccination conflicts with his or her religious tenets or practices.

Time Period to Obtain Required Immunizations

All of the above vaccinations require more than one dose. Students unable to obtain all necessary doses of a vaccine prior to the start of class still may attend class, provided that they can produce documentation demonstrating that they have obtained at least one dose by their first day of class. Students must produce documentation establishing that all remaining doses have been obtained prior to the start of their fourth phase, or they may not be permitted to continue. Students may be subject to involuntary withdrawal if they are unable to obtain all remaining doses and return to class prior to violating the school's attendance policy. Students able to establish that they are putting forth a good faith effort to obtain the remaining dose(s) may be allowed to continue to attend at the discretion of the Campus Director.

Locating Proof of Prior Immunization

Adults experiencing difficulty locating childhood immunization records may wish to consult family members or try to contact the original immunization provider (*e.g.*, local health department, private medical office). Schools also may have copies of immunization certificates in student files. In addition, individuals born after the mid-1990's may have records entered in a state-managed immunization registry. If records cannot be located, the Tennessee Department of Health recommends vaccination, noting that additional doses of vaccine are not harmful.