



# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF **HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES**

## Vaccines for Missouri students

Missouri law does not allow the federal government to mandate vaccines for students. DHSS has never mandated a COVID-19 vaccine, and supports Governor Parson's position that the federal government will not be given the opportunity to interfere with that authority held by the State of Missouri. DHSS is not considering a rule to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for students.

Missouri tailors our immunization requirements to the specific needs of our state, honoring the local control system within public health. Our state requires seven of the 14 vaccines listed on the federal schedule to attend school.

### How are vaccines added to the Missouri Immunization School Requirement?

Missouri law does not reference any federal vaccine listing for automatic inclusion. It would take either a new law passed by both the House of Representatives and Senate, or through administrative rulemaking. The last immunization rule amendment occurred in 2015 after nearly 3 years of discussions with stakeholders. It added the vaccine for Meningococcal Disease, which causes brain and spinal cord infections.

The rulemaking process would require support from:



**State Agency**  
promulgates rule



**Governor**  
approves rule



**Public**  
comments on rule



**Legislators**  
may reject rule

## What action did CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) take and why is it important?

**Vaccines are critical to helping prevent unnecessary, deadly and debilitating diseases**

Each year, the ACIP updates the federal immunization schedule to recommend vaccines that protect children from disease and combine all related administration guidance into one document for health care professionals. The ACIP is also responsible for adding vaccines to the schedule for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated.

Hundreds of thousands of Missouri children are eligible for vaccines through VFC annually. Children may qualify if they are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured or meet other eligibility criteria. The ACIP action means these children will continue to have access to a COVID-19 vaccine after it is commercialized in 2023.

There are more than  
**780,000**  
Missouri children eligible for  
VFC - that's more than half of  
those under 19.



Fact:  
Common vaccines like the  
**FLU SHOT**  
are strongly encouraged,  
but not required for  
school in Missouri.

# Vaccines to Prevent Disease

Missouri requires seven of the 14 vaccines listed on the federal schedule for school

Disease name	Disease spread by	Disease symptoms	Disease complications	Vaccine	Federal schedule	Missouri school req.
Chickenpox	Air, direct contact	Rash, tiredness, headache, fever	Infected blisters, bleeding disorders, encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death	Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox.	Yes	Yes
COVID-19	* The COVID-19 vaccine information will be published in early 2023*				Added for 2023	No
Diphtheria	Air, direct contact	Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands in neck	Swelling of the heart muscle, heart failure, coma, paralysis, death	DTaP, Tdap and Td vaccines protect against diphtheria.	Yes	Yes
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Air, direct contact	Severe cough, runny nose, apnea (a pause in breathing in infants)	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death	DTaP and Tdap vaccines protect against pertussis (whooping cough).		
Tetanus	Exposure through cuts in skin	Stiffness in neck and abdominal muscles, difficulty swallowing, muscle spasms, fever	Broken bones, breathing difficulty, death	DTaP, Tdap and Td vaccines protect against tetanus.		
Dengue	Bite from infected mosquito	Fever, headache, pain behind the eyes, rash, joint pain, body ache, nausea, loss of appetite feeling tired, abdominal pain	Severe bleeding, seizures, shock, damage to liver, heart, and lungs, death	Dengue vaccine protects against dengue.	Yes	No
Hib	Air, direct contact	May be no symptoms unless bacteria enter the blood	Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), intellectual disability, epiglottitis (life-threatening infection that can block the windpipe and lead to serious breathing problems), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death	Hib vaccine protects against Haemophilus influenzae type b.	Yes	No
Hepatitis A	Direct contact, contaminated food or water	May be no symptoms, fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine	Liver failure, arthralgia (joint pain), kidney, pancreatic, and blood disorders, death	HepA vaccine protects against hepatitis A.	Yes	No
Hepatitis B	Contact with blood or body fluids	May be no symptoms, fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), joint pain	Chronic liver infection, liver failure, liver cancer, death	HepB vaccine protects against hepatitis B.	Yes	Yes
Human Papillomavirus	Direct skin contact	May be no symptoms, genital warts	Cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, oropharyngeal cancers	HPV vaccine protects against human papillomavirus.	Yes	No
Influenza (Flu)	Air, direct contact	Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), bronchitis, sinus infections, ear infections, death	Flu vaccine protects against influenza.	Yes	No
Measles	Air, direct contact	Rash, fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye	Encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death	MMR vaccine protects against measles.	Yes	Yes
Mumps	Air, direct contact	Swollen salivary glands (under the jaw), fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain	Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), encephalitis (brain swelling), inflammation of testicles or ovaries, deafness, death	MMR vaccine protects against mumps.		
Rubella	Air, direct contact	Sometimes rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes	Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects	MMR vaccine protects against rubella.		
Meningococcal Disease	Air, direct contact	Sudden onset of fever, headache, and stiff neck, dark purple rash	Loss of limb, deafness, nervous system disorders, developmental disabilities, seizure disorder, stroke, death	The MenACWY vaccine protects against meningococcal disease.	Yes	Yes
Polio	Air, direct contact, through the mouth	May be no symptoms, sore throat, fever, nausea, headache	Paralysis, death	IPV and Polio vaccines protect against polio.	Yes	Yes
Pneumococcal	Air, direct contact	May be no symptoms, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)	Bacteremia (blood infection), meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), death	PCV13 and Pneumococcal vaccines protect against pneumococcus.	Yes	No
Rotavirus	Through the mouth	Diarrhea, fever, vomiting	Severe diarrhea, dehydration, death	RV vaccine protects against rotavirus.	Yes	No