



**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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February 15, 2012

Honorable La Verne Terry, Ed D
Commissioner
Department of Education
No. 846 Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: **VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY
(2012-2013 School Year)**

The Virgin Islands Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-1 states "all children registering for kindergarten and for any public, parochial or private schools must have a valid certificate of immunization for such diseases as Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Measles, Poliomyelitis, and all other diseases as are required by the standard listing issued annually by the Commissioner of Health".

Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-2 states "No principal or other person in charge of a kindergarten or other school shall knowingly admit or retain any pupil who has not submitted acceptable evidence of immunization according to the schedule specified by the Commissioner of Health, except when there are exemptions as herein stated".

The following immunizations are **required** for school entry in the United States Virgin Islands for the school year 2012-2013:

**Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio,
Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella**

- **One (1) dose of Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) is required for children 11 years of age and above (eligibility determined by health care provider).**
- **Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine are required for both new and existing students who are entering/registering/repeating kindergarten (eligibility determined by health care provider).**

For the 2013-2014 School Year, two doses of Varicella vaccine will be required for K through 3rd graders.

For more information concerning number of doses recommended based upon the child's age and immunization history, please refer to the attached "Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 6 Years and Persons aged 7 through 18 years"

- Before being issued an immunization clearance form for school registration or being admitted to school, all children shall receive the required vaccine(s) (and total number of doses), at the **minimum age recommended in the attached immunization schedule**; however, for each child, eligibility to receive the required vaccine will be determined by the Immunization Program Nurse or health care provider.

Any child who received the immunization clearance form at the time of the clinic visit, but have **not** completed the required vaccine series (due to the time intervals required between doses), **must** return to the Immunization Program clinic or their healthcare provider to complete the required vaccine series by the vaccination date(s) indicated and documented by the immunization provider in the child's immunization record.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccines required for school entry, please call the Department of Health Immunization Program clinics in St. Thomas at 774-7477 ext. 2120 or 2150, St. Croix at 773-1311 ext. 3254, or St. John at 776-6400.

Please note: Exemptions may be granted for school-aged children based on the principles and teachings of a recognized religious organization/church and if the vaccines/medicinal agents are medically contraindicated (please see VI Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-3 & 116-4).

Sincerely,



Mercedes Dullum, MD
Commissioner Designee

Cc: Principals, Administrators, and School Nurses