Understanding the Utah Immunization Rule for Students

Module II
Utah School Immunization Record
Utah School Immunization Record
About This Module

Purpose: To provide information to school personnel regarding requirements pertaining to the Utah School Immunization Record (USIR).

Goal: To improve understanding and usage of the Utah School Immunization Record in Utah schools.

Objectives:
- Define “official certificate of immunization.”
- Define “appropriate immunization documentation.”
- Describe the vaccines and number of vaccine doses currently required for kindergarten and 7th grade school entry.
- Describe appropriate documentation of medical, religious and personal exemptions.
- Define proof of immunity (history of disease) and appropriate documentation of immunity.
- Define appropriate immunization documentation for transfer students and students in military families.
- Describe who is responsible for verifying the USIR.
Each school must maintain *hard copies* of official certificates of immunization for every enrolled student to verify each student’s immunization status.

The Utah School Immunization Record (USIR) is the official certificate of immunization for students in any Utah public, private, charter or parochial school.

The USIR is part of the student’s permanent school record (cumulative folder) as defined in Section 53G-9-306 of the Utah Statutory Code.
Official Use of the Utah School Immunization Record – Part II

- The USIR shall transfer with the student’s school record to any new school.

- The USIR may be printed from the Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS).

- The USIR may also be printed from the Utah Immunization Program website. It can be printed on any color paper.

- Records printed from USIIS are acceptable as the official immunization record and are considered equivalent to the USIR.

- Schools districts may not use templates of the USIR for maintaining and reporting official immunization documentation.
Vaccine Requirements

- The USIR shall document all the vaccines a student has received, including
  the month, date and year each vaccine was received.

- The vaccine requirements for Utah students are as follows:
  - 5 doses of DTaP/DT – 4 doses are acceptable, if the 4th dose was
    given after the 4th birthday; 3 doses of Td are required, if started after
    7 years of age.
  - 1 dose of Tdap – required for 7th grade entry.
  - 4 doses of Polio – 3 doses are acceptable, if the 3rd dose was given
    after the 4th birthday.
  - 1 dose of Meningococcal – Required for 7th grade entry.
Vaccine Requirements

- **2 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)** – required for all students kindergarten through grade 12. The first dose of a MMR containing vaccine must be given on or after the first birthday.

- **3 doses of Hepatitis B** – required for students entering kindergarten and 7th grade.

- **2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox)** – required for students entering kindergarten and 7th grade. The first dose must be given on or after the first birthday.

- **2 doses of Hepatitis A** – required for students entering kindergarten. The first dose of Hepatitis A must be given on or after the first birthday.

*Proof of immunity to disease(s) can be accepted in place of vaccination only if a document is presented to the school from a healthcare provider stating the student previously contracted the disease.*
Appropriate Immunization Documentation - Vaccines

- All students must have an official certificate of immunization/USIR or an official Personal Exemption form, Religious or Personal Exemption, or proof of immunity, if applicable.

- When reviewing the immunization record of a student, ensure that information regarding each required vaccination the student has received, including the date each vaccine was administered, has been verified by a licensed healthcare provider, registered nurse, public health official, or pharmacist.

- The information must be transferred to the USIR.

- The USIR must be verified by a school or health personnel who verified USIR against the source records.
If a student has an exemption that *does not expire*, check the box for the applicable exemption.

If the student has a temporary medical exemption, check the appropriate box and enter the date the exemption expires where indicated.
Exemption Documentation

- Students with a temporary medical exemption are considered Conditionally Admitted.

- Enter the exemption expiration date, if applicable. Upon expiration of temporary status, immunizations will be required.

- Immunization records of conditionally admitted students should be reviewed routinely to ensure compliance.
Proof of Immunity (History of Disease Verification)

If a student is claiming immunity against a disease for which vaccination is required because the student previously contracted the disease, the student must submit a document signed by a healthcare provider to the school as proof of immunity.
Students in Military Families

- Children legally residing in the home of an active-duty service member or whose parent or legal guardian is an active-duty service member may be conditionally admitted to school if they do not have their immunization records at the start of school.

- Follow the same instructions for documenting conditionally admitted students.

**NOTE:** Active-duty means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active-duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Sections 1209 and 1211.
Homeless Students - Enrollment

- Homeless students may be conditionally admitted.
- School officials should use their professional discretion to ensure these students receive the immunizations they need in a timely manner.
- The Utah Immunization Program will collaborate with the Utah State Office of Education to ensure school districts do not have funds withheld for homeless students, if there have been repeated efforts to obtain the required immunizations or immunization records.

NOTE: Many of these homeless students have no insurance and are eligible to receive immunizations through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Call 801-538-9450 for more information.
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states:

- The school selected must immediately enroll even if unable to produce normally required records for enrollment or while obtaining school records from previous school. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)

- Enrolling schools shall contact the school last attended by the student immediately to obtain relevant academic and other records. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(ii)

- If a child or youth experiencing homelessness needs to obtain immunization or other required health records, the enrolling school will immediately refer the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to the local liaison, who will assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or screenings, or immunization or other required health records. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(iii)
Transfer Students

- Students who transfer from another state or from one Utah school to another must provide appropriate immunization documentation that satisfies Utah’s requirements.

- The information **must** be transcribed to the USIR.

- An exemption from another state is not transferrable. The student must obtain the appropriate Utah exemption form.

- Attach any exemption form to the USIR.
The school official should indicate the source of the original records, such as a statewide registry, student’s former school or legally responsible individual of the student.

Once the record has been appropriately completed, the school official in which the school is located must verify the USIR.

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