



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

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Vickie Yates Brown Glisson
Secretary

October 9, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: New Kentucky Immunization Requirements for Middle/Junior High School Entry

A recent amendment to the Kentucky Administrative Regulation on the immunization schedules for attending school added new immunization requirements for the school year beginning on or after July 1, 2018:

- Effective July 1, 2018, **all** students in kindergarten through twelfth grade must show proof of having received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine to attend school.

To meet this requirement, a **current** Certificate of Immunization Status must be provided to the school showing the dates your child received the two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine. If your child has already received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine, he or she will not be required to receive the series again.

Acute hepatitis A disease has been in the news in the last several months because of a large outbreak in California caused by the contagious and easily spread hepatitis A virus. Most children with hepatitis A infection have no characteristic symptoms but can easily spread the virus to others. Children with acute hepatitis A disease can have fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, stomach pains and diarrhea, or jaundice. Acute liver failure and/or death can occur in the most severe cases.

Hepatitis A vaccine is highly effective in preventing acute hepatitis A. Hepatitis A vaccine is available from your doctor, clinic or healthcare provider and is covered as a no-cost preventive service by most health insurance plans when administered by network providers. All local health departments administer Hepatitis A vaccine, especially for children who do not have health insurance. If your child is not up-to-date on immunizations, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department to schedule an appointment or to find out the hours when vaccines are given.

Online information about Hepatitis A vaccine is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hepa/index.html>.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ballard, MD, MPH, MPhil
State Public Health Epidemiologist and Director
Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning