



Kentucky Public Health

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Kentucky School Immunization Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions

This information reflects Kentucky school immunization requirements as of January 2026.

- 1. Why have Kentucky's school immunization requirements not changed based on the new CDC guidance?**

Kentucky's school immunization requirements are established in state law and regulation, found in [902 KAR 2:060](#). CDC guidance does not automatically change state law. The recent recommendations from the federal government are only advisory and do not follow the long-established steps that are critical to setting vaccine policy, such as comprehensive scientific review, public deliberation and evidence-based decision making.

Therefore, Kentucky remains committed to sharing evidence-based vaccination guidance developed by medical experts and national professional organizations including the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#) to protect the health of children.
- 2. What scientific evidence supports Kentucky's current school immunization requirements?**

Kentucky's school immunization requirements are supported by decades of scientific research demonstrating vaccine safety and effectiveness. The requirements are established in state regulation, [902 KAR 2:060](#), and reflect careful review by pediatric and public health experts. Kentucky continues to follow guidance from medical organizations, such as the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and the [American Academy of Family Physicians \(AAFP\)](#) as they base their vaccine recommendations and schedules on many years of scientific studies. These studies show that vaccines are safe, effective and protect children from preventable diseases.
- 3. Does this mean the CDC schedule is "wrong"?**

No. The CDC made administrative changes to how some vaccines are categorized within the federal schedule. No vaccines were removed, and the scientific evidence supporting vaccine safety and effectiveness has not changed. These updates do not change Kentucky's school immunization requirements or override guidance from medical professional organizations.
- 4. Are there risks for my child if we follow the new CDC schedule instead of Kentucky's?**

Delaying or skipping recommended vaccines may place children at higher risk for serious illness. Families are encouraged to talk with their child's health care provider about any concerns.
- 5. Who decides Kentucky's school immunization requirements?**

Kentucky's school immunization requirements are established by state-level laws and administrative regulations passed by the Kentucky Legislature. These requirements are not decided on by individual schools, school districts or federal agencies.
- 6. Are Kentucky's current school vaccine requirements still in effect?**

Yes. Kentucky's school and child care immunization requirements remain in effect and have not changed.
- 7. What documentation is required for school enrollment and attendance?**

A valid Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status (EPID-230) is required for enrollment and must be kept on file at the school or child care facility. The EPID-230 must be complete,

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legible, include an expiration date and be signed by an authorized provider or printed directly from the Kentucky Immunization Registry (KYIR).

8. Where do I obtain my child's Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status (EPID-230) form?

Parents and guardians may obtain the Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status (EPID-230) from their child's medical provider, local health department or by printing it from the [Kentucky Immunization Registry \(KYIR\) Public Portal](#).

9. What is the Kentucky Immunization Registry (KYIR) Public Portal?

The [Kentucky Immunization Registry \(KYIR\) Public Portal](#) allows parents and guardians to access and print their child's official immunization certificate. This certificate can be used for school and child care enrollment. If you have any questions or issues accessing the public portal, visit [KYIR Public Portal - Cabinet for Health and Family Services](#) or contact the help desk at KYIRHelpdesk@ky.gov.

10. What happens if I follow the new CDC schedule, but it doesn't match Kentucky's requirements?

Schools are required to follow Kentucky laws and regulations. If a child does not meet Kentucky's immunization requirements, the school must follow existing enrollment and compliance procedures. Families should work with their health care provider to ensure their child meets all Kentucky's requirements to enroll in and attend a Kentucky school.

11. Does Kentucky plan to update its regulations, and if so, when?

Currently, Kentucky's school immunization regulations have not changed. If changes are adopted in the future, they would follow the required legal and regulatory process and be communicated.

12. How will schools handle students who follow the new CDC guidance but do not meet Kentucky's existing requirements?

Schools should continue to follow Kentucky laws and regulations. Students must meet Kentucky's immunization requirements to enroll in and attend school.

13. Should I follow my pediatrician's guidance, the CDC's new guidance or Kentucky's current requirements?

Families are encouraged to talk with their child's health care provider when making decisions about medical care. For school enrollment and attendance, Kentucky's immunization requirements listed in [902 KAR 2:060](#) must be met. Your child's provider can help answer questions and address concerns while ensuring your child is protected and meets Kentucky law.

14. How will my decision affect school enrollment, sports participation or extracurricular activities?

Per state regulation, students must meet Kentucky's immunization requirements if they are enrolled in a preschool program or a public or private primary or secondary school, for all in-school classes or to participate in sports or any school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

15. Can I request a medical or religious exemption if I disagree with Kentucky's requirements?

Kentucky law provides specific, limited exemptions. Questions about exemptions should be directed to your child's health care provider or the local health department for guidance.

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