

South Central Calhoun CSD

7/29/2025

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Dear Parents and Families,

As we begin a new school year, we want to provide a reminder of the Iowa state requirements regarding immunizations for all students enrolled in school. These requirements are in place to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the community.

Required Immunizations

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, students must have documentation of the following immunizations before attending school (unless exempt as outlined below):

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP/Tdap)**
- **Polio**
- **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)**
- **Hepatitis B**
- **Varicella (Chickenpox)** or evidence of prior illness

Additional doses and age-specific requirements may apply depending on grade level. For example, all students entering 7th grade are required to have one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine. Students entering 12th grade are required to have two doses of the Meningococcal vaccine, or one dose if the first was given on or after the age of 16.

Documentation

A valid **Certificate of Immunization** must be submitted to the school office before a student can attend classes. Families may obtain this certificate from their healthcare provider or county health department.

Exemptions

Iowa law allows two types of statutory exemptions from required immunizations:

1. **Medical Exemption** – Granted when a licensed healthcare provider certifies that immunizations would be harmful to the child's health.
2. **Religious Exemption** – Granted when a parent/guardian signs an affidavit stating that immunization conflicts with their genuine and sincere religious beliefs.

A valid **Certificate of Exemption** must be filed with the school for either exemption to be recognized.

Why This Matters

These requirements ensure a safe learning environment for all students by reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases in our schools. We encourage you to work with your healthcare provider to make sure your child's immunizations are current.

If you have questions about immunization requirements, need assistance accessing vaccines, or require exemption forms, please contact the school office or the Calhoun County Health Department (712) 297-8323.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for helping us maintain a healthy school community.

Sincerely,
Brad Anderson
Superintendent