

The UCAP School Student Immunizations Policy

Adopted 10/10/23

The Board of Superintendents (“Board”) of The UCAP School (“UCAP”) recognizes the necessity that school children be immunized against diseases which spread easily in schools and interrupt school life and learning for individuals and groups. In accordance with applicable Rhode Island law and regulations¹, a student shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend school unless the immunization requirements of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) have been met or the student has received a medical or religious exemption from immunization.

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-38-2, the Board directs the Executive Director or his/her designee to ascertain that each student has been immunized in accordance with the requirements of the RIDOH and further directs the Executive Director or his/her designee, in conjunction with the school nurse, to oversee the school’s adherence to the requirements set forth in Rhode Island law and regulation, this Immunization Policy, as well as any additional applicable immunization requirements mandated by the RIDOH.

Immunization Requirements:

The below are the immunizations that will be required as a condition of attendance at UCAP. The Executive Director or his/her designee, in conjunction with the school nurse, is directed to monitor changes in state regulations regarding immunization requirements and to ensure that the school complies with applicable immunization requirements:

(1) *Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis Vaccine*. Five (5) doses of diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. If the fourth (4th) dose was given after the fourth (4th) birthday, a fifth (5th) dose is not necessary (total of four (4) doses). Where pertussis vaccine is medically contraindicated, diphtheria tetanus (DT) vaccine is to be substituted. Students entering grade seven (7) shall be required to have an additional one (1) dose if at least 5 years have elapsed since the last dose of a vaccine containing tetanus and diphtheria.

(2) *Poliomyelitis Vaccine*. Four (4) doses of any combination of either oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) or inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV). The final dose should be given on or after the fourth (4th) birthday. If the third (3rd) dose was given after the fourth (4th) birthday, a fourth (4th) dose is not necessary (total of three (3) doses), if all three (3) doses were either all OPV or all IPV; or a series administered in accordance with ACIP recommendations.

(3) *Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccines*. Two (2) doses of live measles, mumps and rubella vaccine given at least four (4) weeks apart beginning on or after twelve (12) months of age shall be required for students entering kindergarten (K) and grade seven (7) in accordance with ACIP recommendations.

¹ R.I.G.L § 16-38-2; 216-RICR-30-05-3

(4) *Hepatitis B Vaccine*. Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine administered in accordance with ACIP recommendations are required for students entering grades kindergarten (K) through grade twelve (12) and all students in ungraded classrooms.

(5) *Chickenpox (varicella) Vaccine*. Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine given at least four (4) weeks apart beginning at or after twelve (12) months shall be required for students entering kindergarten (K) and grade seven (7) (or in the case of an ungraded classrooms, students twelve (12) years of age or older).

(6) *Meningococcal Vaccine*. All students entering seventh (7th) grade, shall be required to receive one (1) dose of meningococcal vaccine in accordance with ACIP recommendations.

(7) *Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine*. All students entering seventh (7th) grade shall be required to have at least one (1) dose of the HPV vaccine series. All students entering eighth (8th) grade shall be required to have at least two (2) doses of the HPV vaccine series.

Exclusions

Students who have not received the minimum number of required immunizations, who are not in a prescribed waiting period between doses (see below), and who are not exempt (see below), shall be excluded from UCAP by the Executive Director or his/her designee, pending the completion of the required dose(s) of vaccine(s).

Waiting Period:

If at initial entry to UCAP a student is within a waiting period for the minimum number of doses for a given vaccine, the student shall be registered and/or admitted to UCAP. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director or his/her designee to ensure the completion of at least the minimum number of immunizations. The Executive Director or his/her designee shall sign a Temporary Immunization Exemption Certificate, indicating that an appointment with a health care provider for the required immunization(s) has been made. The temporary exemption shall expire on the date of the immunization appointment.

Medical and Religious Exemptions:

A student may only be exempt from the immunization requirements described above for either of the two (2) reasons stated below:

a. A physician, a physician assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner, or other licensed practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice signs the Rhode Island Department of Health's "Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate" provided by UCAP attesting that the student is exempt from a specific vaccine because of medical reasons, in accordance with ACIP recommendations; or

b. A parent or guardian completes and signs, and UCAP accepts, UCAP's "Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate" provided by the school, attesting that immunization conflicts with the tenets of their religious beliefs.

If a student has a medical or religious exemption for vaccinations, and there is an outbreak of one of the diseases that is on the vaccination list, the exempt student is required to stay home until the outbreak has been cleared.

Responsibilities of UCAP and Administration:

The Executive Director is directed to appoint a knowledgeable person (i.e. school nurse, director of school health services) to perform the following:

- (1) Inform the parent or guardian at registration or prior to registration, if possible, of this Immunization Policy.
- (2) Ascertain the immunization status of a child prior to admission to UCAP or continued attendance at UCAP.
- (3) The parent or guardian shall be asked for complete immunization records. Acceptable evidence of completion of immunizations shall include the day, month, year, and type/ name of each dose of vaccine administered. Such evidence shall consist of a record signed by a physician, registered nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or his/her designee (the signature of the student's parents is not acceptable).
- (4) If applicable, ascertain the medical or religious exemption certificate.
- (5) Maintain on file a certificate of immunization or exemption for a student enrolled.

UCAP reporting to the Rhode Island Department of Health:

The Executive Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for reporting the immunization status of students and the number of students with a medical and/or religious exemption to the RIDOH. Such reporting shall occur according to procedures and formats required by the RIDOH.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20__