

Guidance on Connecticut's Childhood Immunization Schedule and School Requirements (1/13/2026)

Purpose:

This memo provides guidance following the recent announcement by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding changes to the national childhood immunization schedule. It clarifies Connecticut's legal framework, standard of care, school immunization requirements, and the Department's continued commitment to evidence-based immunization practices.

Key Points:

- Connecticut's childhood immunization schedule and school requirements remain unchanged and continue to be based on long-standing, evidence-based recommendations consistent with state law and the established standard of care.
- All childhood vaccines remain available and covered by insurance, including Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program; families should not delay vaccination due to concerns about access or cost.
- Parents are encouraged to talk with trusted health care providers about the benefits and risks of vaccines, recognizing that all vaccination decisions are made through shared clinical decision-making grounded in scientific evidence.

Connecticut Law and the Immunization Standard of Care:

Connecticut statutes clearly establish the authority and responsibility for determining the immunization standard of care for children in this state.

Under [Connecticut General Statutes § 19a-7f](#), the Commissioner of Public Health:

- Determines the standard of care for immunization for children in Connecticut; and
- Bases that standard of care on the recommended immunization schedules published by:
 - The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP),
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and
 - The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

Consistent with this statute, and in the absence of new scientific evidence supporting a change, Connecticut will continue to follow the previously approved, evidence-based childhood immunization schedule.

The AAP continues to post this schedule, which remains the appropriate standard of care in Connecticut and should be followed by providers:

- AAP Immunization Schedule: <https://publications.aap.org/redbook/resources/15585/>

Childhood Vaccine Availability and Access:

All routinely recommended childhood vaccines continue to be available in Connecticut through pediatric and primary care providers, local health departments, and federally supported immunization programs. Recent changes announced at the national level do not affect vaccine supply, distribution, or access within the state.

Vaccines remain covered by public and private insurance plans, including Medicaid and the VFC Program, consistent with federal and state law. Families should not delay or forgo vaccination due to concerns about coverage or availability.

School Immunization Requirements Remain in Effect:

School immunization requirements in Connecticut are governed by state law ([Connecticut General Statutes § 10-204a](#)) and corresponding [regulations](#) of Connecticut State Agencies.

At this time:

- There is no change to school immunization requirements.
- The existing regulations defining adequate immunization for school enrollment remain in effect.
- These requirements will not be altered in response to HHS's recent announcement. Any future changes to vaccine requirements would follow established legislative procedures for the revision of regulations prior to implementation.

Schools, school nurses, and families should continue to follow existing immunization requirements for enrollment and attendance.