



**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Ph. 340-776-8311 ext.2150  
Fax 340-777-4001  
1303 Hospital Ground Suite 10  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Ph. 340-773-1311 x3000  
Fax 340-773-1376  
Charles Harwood Complex  
St. Croix, USVI 00820

April 16, 2013

Honorable La Verne Terry, Ed D  
Commissioner  
Department of Education  
No. 846 Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, VI 00802

RECEIVED  
2013 APR 22 PM 11:18  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Re: **VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY  
(2013-2014 School Year)**

The Virgin Islands Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-1 states "all children registering for kindergarten and for any public, parochial or private schools must have a valid certificate of immunization for such diseases as Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Measles, Poliomyelitis, and all other diseases as are required by the standard listing issued annually by the Commissioner of Health".

Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-2 states "No principal or other person in charge of a kindergarten or other school shall knowingly admit or retain any pupil who has not submitted acceptable evidence of immunization according to the schedule specified by the Commissioner of Health, except when there are exemptions as herein stated".

The following immunizations are **required** for school entry in the United States Virgin Islands for the school year 2013-2014:

**Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio,  
Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella**

- **One (1) dose of Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) is required for children 11 years of age and above (eligibility for vaccination will be determined by health care provider).**
- **Two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine are required for kindergarteners, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders— both new and existing students who are entering/registering/repeating (eligibility for vaccination will be determined by health care provider).**

For more information concerning number of doses recommended based upon the child's age and immunization history, please refer to the attached "Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 6 Years and Persons aged 7 through 18 years"

- Before being issued an immunization clearance form for school registration or being admitted to school, all children shall receive the required vaccine(s) (and total number of doses), at the **minimum age recommended in the attached immunization schedule**; however, for each child, eligibility to receive the required vaccine will be determined by the Immunization Program Nurse or health care provider.

Any child who received the immunization clearance form at the time of the clinic visit, but have **not** completed the required vaccine series (due to the time intervals required between doses), **must** return to the Immunization Program clinic or their healthcare provider to complete the required vaccine series by the vaccination date(s) indicated and documented by the immunization provider in the child's immunization record.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccines required for school entry, please call the Department of Health Immunization Program at 776-1113 or the clinic on St. Thomas at 774-7477 ext. 2120/2150, or on St. Croix at 773-1311 ext. 3254.

**Please note: Exemptions may be granted for school-aged children based on the principles and teachings of a recognized religious organization/church and if the vaccines/medicinal agents are medically contraindicated (please see VI Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-3 & 116-4).**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darice Plaskett". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name and title.

Darice Plaskett, RN, MSA, FACHE  
Health Commissioner

Cc: Principals, Administrators, and School Nurses

# When Do Children and Teens Need Vaccinations?

Age	HepB Hepatitis B	DTaP/Tdap Diphtheria, Tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough)	Hib Haemophilus influenzae type b	IPV Polio	PCV13 Pneumococcal conjugate	RV Rotavirus	MMR Measles, mumps, rubella	Varicella Chickenpox	HepA Hepatitis A	HPV Human papillo- mavirus	MCV4 Meningococcal conjugate	Influenza Flu
Birth	✓											
2 months	✓ (1-2 mos)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
4 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
6 months		✓	✓		✓	✓						
12 months												
15 months	✓ (6-18 mos)	✓ (15-18 mos)	✓ (12-15 mos)	✓ (6-18 mos)	✓ (12-15 mos)		✓ (12-15 mos)	✓ (12-15 mos)	✓✓ (2 doses given 6 mos apart at age 12-23 mos)			
18 months												✓ (One dose each fall or winter to all people ages 6 mos and older)
19-23 months		Catch-up	Catch-up	Catch-up	Catch-up		Catch-up	Catch-up				
4-6 years		✓		✓			✓	✓				
7-10 years		Catch-up										
11-12 years		✓ Tdap					Catch-up	Catch-up	Catch-up	✓✓	✓	
13-15 years		Catch-up (Tdap)								Catch-up	Catch-up	
16-18 years											✓	✓

**Please note:** Cases of pertussis (whooping cough) have increased in children, teens, and adults in the last few years. Tragically, some infants too young to be fully protected by vaccination have died. Ask your doctor or nurse if your children have received all the pertussis shots needed for his or her age. Also, if you haven't had your pertussis shot, you need to get one.

**What is "Catch-up?"** If your child's vaccinations are overdue or missing, get your child vaccinated as soon as possible. If your child has not completed a series of vaccinations on time, he or she will need only the remainder of the vaccinations in the series. There's no need to start over.