

# Immunizations & Quarantine: North Carolina Law

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Knapp-Sanders Building  
Constructed in 1956. Renovated and expanded in 2003.  
Named in honor of  
Philanthropist and Publisher Joseph Palmer Knapp  
And  
Educator and Institute of Government Director John Lattimer Sanders



# NC Immunization Requirements



## General rule: all children

- “Every child present in this State shall be immunized”  
(G.S. 130A-152)

## Exemptions

- Medical (G.S. 130A-156)
- Religious (G.S. 130A-157)

# Required Immunizations & Schedule

## SECTION .0400 - IMMUNIZATION

### 10A NCAC 41A .0401 DOSAGE AND AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMUNIZATION

(a) Every individual in North Carolina required to be immunized pursuant to G.S. 130A-152 through 130A-157 shall be immunized against the following diseases and have documentation of age-appropriate vaccination in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

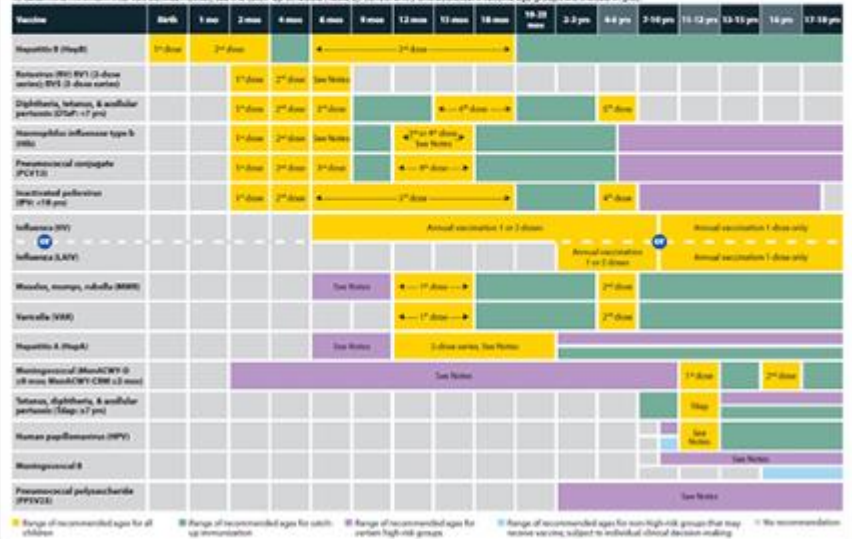
- (1) Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) - five doses: three doses by age seven months; and 2 booster doses, the first by age 19 months and the second on or after the fourth birthday and before entering school for the first time. However:
  - (A) Individuals who receive the first booster dose of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine on or after the fourth birthday are not required to have a second booster.
  - (B) Individuals entering college or university for the first time on or after July 1, 2008 must have had three doses of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid; one of which must be tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis.
  - (C) A booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine is required for individuals who have not previously received it and are entering the seventh grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.
- (2) Poliomyelitis vaccine - four doses: two doses of trivalent type by age five months; a third dose trivalent type before age 19 months; and a booster dose of trivalent type on or after his or her fourth birthday and before entering school for the first time. However:
  - (A) An individual attending school who has attained his or her 18th birthday is not required to receive a polio vaccine.
  - (B) The requirements for the booster dose on or after the fourth birthday do not apply to individuals who began school before July 1, 2015.
  - (C) Individuals who receive the third dose of poliomyelitis vaccine on or after the fourth birthday are not required to receive a fourth dose if the third dose is given at least six months after the second dose.
- (3) Measles (rubella) vaccine - two doses of live, attenuated vaccine administered at least 28 days apart: the first dose on or after age 12 months and before age 16 months; and a second dose before entering school for the first time. However:
  - (A) An individual who has been documented by serological testing to have a protective antibody titer against measles is not required to receive measles vaccine.
  - (B) An individual who has been diagnosed before January 1, 1994, by a physician (or designee such as a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant) as having measles (rubella) disease is not required to receive measles vaccine.
  - (C) An individual born before 1957 is not required to receive measles vaccine except in measles outbreak situations.
  - (D) The requirement for a second dose of measles vaccine does not apply to individuals who enter school or in college or university for the first time before July 1, 1994.
- (4) Rubella vaccine - one dose of live, attenuated vaccine on or after age 12 months and before age 16 months. However:
  - (A) An individual who has laboratory confirmation of rubella disease or who has been documented by serological testing to have a protective antibody titer against rubella is not required to receive rubella vaccine.
  - (B) An individual who has attained his or her fiftieth birthday is not required to receive rubella vaccine except in outbreak situations.
  - (C) An individual who entered a college or university after his or her thirtieth birthday and before February 1, 1989 is not required to meet the requirement for rubella vaccine except in outbreak situations.
- (5) Mumps vaccine - two doses: the first dose of live, attenuated vaccine administered on or after age 12 months and before age 16 months; and a second dose before entering school, college or university for the first time. However:
  - (A) An individual who has laboratory confirmation of disease, or has been documented by serological testing to have a protective antibody titer against mumps is not required to receive the mumps vaccine.
  - (B) An individual born before 1957 is not required to receive the mumps vaccine.

## ■ CDC's Recommended Schedule

### Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule (birth through 18 years)

**Table 1** Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for ages 18 years or younger United States, 2019

These recommendations must be read with the Notes that follow. For those who fall behind or start late, provide catch-up vaccination at the earliest opportunity as indicated by the green bars in Table 1. To determine minimum intervals between doses, see the catch-up schedule (Table 2). School entry and adolescent vaccine age groups are shaded in gray.



NC's Required Schedule:  
10A N.C.A.C. 41A .0401

# NC Medical Exemption

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Women's and Children's Health Section • Immunization Branch

## MEDICAL EXEMPTION STATEMENT

Purpose: To provide physicians, licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, a mechanism to document a true medical contraindication/precaution to an immunization(s). This form does not need approval from the State Health Director. This form can be accepted by agencies that require proof of immunizations. For medical exemptions NOT listed in the table below, submit the [Physician's Request for Medical Exemption](#) form (Form: DHHS 3995) to the State Health Director for approval, available at <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/schools/ncexemptions.htm>

Name of Patient \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (Patient/Parent) \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Care/School/College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Medical contraindications and precautions for immunizations are described in the most recent recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications.htm>

A **contraindication** is a condition in a recipient that increases the risk for a serious adverse reaction. A vaccine will not be administered when a contraindication is present. A **precaution** is a condition in a recipient that might increase the risk for a serious adverse reaction or that might compromise the ability of the vaccine to produce immunity. Under normal conditions, vaccinations should be deferred when a precaution is present.

Vaccine	Check all true contraindications and precautions that apply to this patient below:
<input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP) <input type="checkbox"/> Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) <input type="checkbox"/> Tetanus, diphtheria (DT, Td)	<p><b>Contraindications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For pertussis-containing vaccines: encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizure) not attributable to another identifiable cause within 7 days of administration of DTaP or DTP (for DTaP); or of previous dose of DTaP, DTP, or Tdap (for Tdap).</li> </ul> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> History of arthus-type hypersensitivity reaction after a previous dose of a tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine; defer until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus-toxoid containing vaccine.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For pertussis-containing vaccines: progressive or unstable neurologic disorder (including infantile spasms for DTaP), uncontrolled seizures, or progressive encephalopathy until a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Precautions that only apply to DTaP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Temperature of 105° F or higher (40.5° C or higher) within 48 hours after vaccination with a previous dose of DTP/DTaP.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collapse or shock-like state (i.e., hypotonic hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Seizure within 3 days after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 or more hours within 48 hours after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	<p><b>Contraindications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., congenital immunodeficiency, malignancy, chemotherapy, long-term immunosuppressive therapy, or human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] infection with CD4+ T-lymphocyte count &lt; 15%).</li> </ul> <p><b>Precautions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recent (within 11 months) receipt of antibody-containing blood product (specific interval depends on product).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> History of thrombocytopenia or thrombocytopenic purpura.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Need for tuberculin skin testing (Measles vaccine might suppress tuberculin reactivity temporarily)</li> </ul>

DHHS 3987 (Revised 6/15)  
Immunization (Review 6/17)

“If a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State certifies that a required immunization is or may be detrimental to a person’s health due to the presence of one of the contraindications adopted by the Commission, the person is not required to receive the specified immunization as long as the contraindication persists.” G.S. 130A-156

- Licensed physician must certify
- ACIP-recognized contraindication, or specific approval by State Health Director
- DHHS Form 3987

G.S. 130A-156 ; 10A N.C.A.C. 41A .0404



# NC Religious Exemption

- “If the bona fide religious beliefs of an adult or the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of a child are contrary to the immunization requirements contained in this Chapter, the adult or the child shall be exempt from the requirements.”
- No DHHS form – parent writes statement

G.S. 130A-157



# In NC, no exemption for personal beliefs not founded in religion

- “There is no exception to these requirements for the case of a personal belief or philosophy of a parent or guardian not founded upon a religious belief.”

10A NCAC 41A. 0403



# Quarantine in Outbreaks of VPD

- A child who has not been immunized may be subject to quarantine in an outbreak, ***even if the child has an exemption.***
- The term quarantine authority includes “the authority to issue an order to limit the freedom of movement or action of persons who have not received immunizations against a communicable disease when the State Health Director or a local health director determines that the immunizations are required to control an outbreak of that disease.” G.S. 130A-2(7a)

