

A new Immunization Law, Title 28, Chapter 23 and 27, ***School Immunizations; Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases***, was officially passed and published in the PA Bulletin on May 29, 2010. The new immunization law becomes effective at the beginning of Susquenita's **2011-2012 school year**. The website for the PA Bulletin containing the actual law follows. You may need to copy and paste or retype the full address into your browser. You may try Ctrl and click to open the site.

<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol40/40-22/984.html>

Within the document, the first 20 pages are background information. **The actual immunization law begins on page 20.** The highlights of the new law follow.

- **Section 23.83** (a) Duties of a school director, superintendent, principal or other person in charge of a public, private, parochial, or nonpublic school in the Commonwealth, including vocational schools, intermediate units, and special education and home education programs, cyber and charter schools, shall ascertain that a child has been immunized in accordance with the requirements in subsections (b), (c) and (e) prior to admission to school for the first time, under section 1303 of the Public School Code of 1949.

Note that this section includes ALL school entities and all students prior to admission to school.

- (8) ***Required for entry into seventh grade*** [This section reiterates all school entities] and notes that, *the following immunizations are required for students entering the 7th grade, or in an ungraded class, for students in the school year that the student is 12 years of age: (1) tetanus and diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) and (2) Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV).* This now applies to any student entering 7th grade at any time during the 7th grade year. NO other grade is affected by this requirement.
- **Section 23.85** (e) ***Provisional admittance to school.*** (1) for a ***multiple dose vaccine series***, the child may be admitted to school only if evidence of the administration of at least one dose of each antigen described in section 23.83 for multiple dose series [DT/TD, Polio, MMR, varicella, and Hep B.] and the parent or guardian's plan for completion of the required immunizations is made part of the child's health record. (2) ***Single dose vaccines.*** If a child has not received a vaccine for which only a single dose is required [Tdap and MCV only] the child may be provisionally admitted to school if the parent or guardian's plan for obtaining the required immunization is made a part of the child's health record.
- (3) ***Completion of required immunizations*** Immunization requirements described in 23.83 shall be completed within 8 months of the date of provisional admission to school. **If the requirements are not met, the school administrator may not admit the child to school or permit continued attendance after that 8 month provisional period.**

Since only the combined vaccine MMR is available in the US, all students that are in compliance with the second measles vaccine are also in compliance with the second mumps vaccine. The only students that

need to be considered for this part of the new law are those entering from other countries where the single antigen vaccines may still be given.

This law pertains to ALL PA students EXCEPT to the student who are considered Homeless. Homeless students must be admitted regardless of their immunization status. The school nurse will work closely with the student's family to bring those children into compliance as soon after entry as possible. That is the ONLY EXCEPTION to the Immunization Law in PA. There are allowances for medical, religious or moral exemptions for parents. That has not changed.