



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**DATE:** January 30, 2023  
**TO:** Louisiana Schools (Grades K-12)  
**FROM:** Javone Davis Charles, MBA, MPH  
Interim Director

Please route to:

- Principal
- Vice Principal
- School Nurse
- Office Staff

**SUBJECT: Observing the Hepatitis A Vaccination School Entry Requirement**

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year (fall 2023), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will be observing the existing school entry requirement that students be vaccinated with at least two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine before entering kindergarten, or any grade thereafter.

Although vaccination for Hepatitis A has been a long-standing requirement for school entry (included in state administrative code<sup>1</sup> for many years), the State Immunization Program has previously not monitored for this student vaccination in the LINKS school module. In advance of the upcoming school year (2023-2024), LINKS will accept student Hepatitis A vaccination information in the school module.

LDH encourages school officials to perform the following in preparation for the new 2023-2024 school year:

- Review the state's updated school entry requirements guide which reflects the Hepatitis A vaccination requirement for students: [https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/CenterPH/immunizations/GuidesforSchools\\_Daycares/IMMUNIZATION\\_SCHEDULE\\_AND\\_ENTRY\\_REQUIREMENTS\\_Updated\\_11.30.2022.pdf](https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/CenterPH/immunizations/GuidesforSchools_Daycares/IMMUNIZATION_SCHEDULE_AND_ENTRY_REQUIREMENTS_Updated_11.30.2022.pdf)
- Prepare and instruct appropriate staff to ensure that each student entering school have record of 2 doses of Hepatitis A vaccinations before being allowed to attend this fall, in the same manner that all other school entry required vaccinations are assessed. Of course, students with a claimed immunization exemption are not required to provide such immunization records for school entry/attendance.
- Notify parents on the standing Hepatitis A vaccination requirement that will now be actively assessed/observed by LDH and schools throughout the state, starting in the fall of 2023, so that they can ensure their children have the needed vaccinations for entry.

If you have questions regarding the above information, please contact your regional immunization consultant whose contact information is included at <http://www.lalinks.org>

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<sup>1</sup> Title 51, Public Health-Sanitary Code, Part II. The Control of Diseases, Chapter 7. Public Health Immunization Requirements, §701. Immunization Schedule - *Compliance for school and day care center entry will be based on the individual having received an appropriate number of immunizations for his/her age of the following types: Vaccines which contain hepatitis antigen, including Hepatitis B (HepB), Hepatitis A (HepA), and combinations which include these components*