



Connecticut School Vaccines Explained

Connecticut requires school-aged children attending both public and private schools to be vaccinated only against the following diseases, unless they have a medical or non-medical exemption. Unfortunately, the non-medical exemption has been utilized inappropriately resulting in over 130 schools with dangerously low vaccine rates, thereby threatening herd immunity and putting Connecticut students at risk.

*For Meningitis, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a second dose (MenACWY) at 16. (The first dose is required in 7th grade as identified below.) Unfortunately, unless a child is attending college where it is required, they do not receive this vaccine. Many states, including Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, have already required the vaccine for students entering 12th grade, bringing the states fully in-line with ACIP recommendations.

Disease & Timing	Vaccine Name	How it Spreads	Symptoms	Complications
Measles Preschool-Grade12	MMR*** vaccine protects against measles.	Air, direct contact	Rash, fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye	Encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death
Mumps Preschool-Grade12	MMR*** vaccine protects against mumps.	Air, direct contact	Swollen salivary glands (under the jaw), fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain	Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), encephalitis (brain swelling), inflammation of testicles or ovaries, deafness
Rubella Preschool-Grade12	MMR*** vaccine protects against rubella.	Air, direct contact	Sometimes rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes	Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects
Polio Preschool-Grade12	Polio vaccine protects against polio.	Air, direct contact, through the mouth	May be no symptoms, sore throat, fever, nausea, headache	Paralysis, death
Diphtheria Preschool-Grade12	Tdap* and Td ** vaccines protect against diphtheria.	Air, direct contact	Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands in neck	Swelling of the heart muscle, heart failure, coma, paralysis, death

Tetanus Preschool-Grade12	Tdap* and Td ** vaccines protect against tetanus.	Exposure through cuts on skin	Stiffness in neck and abdominal muscles, difficulty swallowing, muscle spasms, fever	Broken bones, breathing difficulty, death
Pertussis Preschool-Grade12	Tdap* vaccine protects against pertussis.	Air, direct contact	Severe cough, runny nose, apnea (a pause in breathing in infants)	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death
Influenza (Flu) Preschool	Flu vaccine protects against influenza.	Air, direct contact	Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
Hepatitis A Preschool & Kindergarden	HepA vaccine protects against hepatitis A.	Direct contact, contaminated food or water	May be no symptoms, fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine	Liver failure, arthralgia (joint pain), kidney, pancreatic and blood disorders
Hepatitis B Preschool-Grade12	HepB vaccine protects against hepatitis B.	Contact with blood or body fluids	May be no symptoms, fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), joint pain	Chronic liver infection, liver failure, liver cancer
Chickenpox Preschool-Grade12	Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox.	Air, direct contact	Rash, tiredness, headache, fever	Infected blisters, bleeding disorders, encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
Pneumococcal Disease Under Age 5	Pneumococcal vaccine protects against pneumococcal disease.	Air, direct contact	May be no symptoms, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)	Bacteremia (blood infection), meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), death
*Meningococcal Disease 7 th Grade	MenACWY and MenB vaccines protect against meningococcal disease.	Air, direct contact	Sudden onset of fever, headache, and stiff neck, dark purple rash	Loss of limb, deafness, nervous system disorders, developmental disabilities, seizure disorder, stroke, death

*Information contained in this factsheet was gathered from C.G.S.
and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

**For more Information, please visit:
vaccinatect.org**