



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

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March 10, 2011

RE: Required Immunizations for the 2011-2012 School Year

Dear Parents of Students in Texas Schools, Kindergarten through 12th Grades:

Immunizations are an important part of public health, and state law requires students in Texas schools to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) understands that it can be hard to find the time and money to get your children vaccinated. We would like to stress the importance of getting these required vaccines at the earliest possible time, to avoid the back-to-school immunization rush that occurs every year during the month of **August**.

To determine the specific number of doses that will be required for your child, please read the document included with this letter, entitled *2011-2012 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students*. This document and more information about school vaccine requirements are available on the Immunization Branch website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com (click on the 'School/ Childcare Requirements' link).

Please be aware that students without the proper documentation of the required immunizations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school.

If you need help determining which vaccines your child needs for the 2011-2012 school year and when to get the vaccines, please contact your child's doctor or immunization clinic. For information on where you can take your child to get free or reduced-cost vaccines call 2-1-1. This is a three digit toll free number that provides information on health and social services for your area. You may also call the Immunization Branch Customer Service number (800) 252-9152 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adolfo M. Valadez".

Adolfo M. Valadez, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Commissioner
Division for Prevention and Preparedness Services

Enclosure