# Superintendent’s Memo #001-21


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 8, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Immunization Requirements

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) reminds school divisions that immunization requirements have not been waived during the pandemic and that they apply to all students admitted, whether learning is virtual, hybrid, or in-person. The *Code of Virginia* [§ 22.1-271.2](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-271.2/)and [§ 32.1-46](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title32.1/chapter2/section32.1-46/) identify the type and schedule of immunizations required prior to school admission.

The 90-day conditional admission permitted for students to complete an immunization series has or will end soon. Returning students who are conditionally admitted must show documentation of immunization or have a medical or [religious exemption](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/certificate_religious_exemption.pdf) to comply with enrollment requirements set forth by Virginia law. Families are encouraged to make appointments with their pediatrician or primary care provider now to avoid any delay in admission. Immunizations may also be obtained through local health departments. The [Virginia Department of Health Medical Reserve Corps](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/mrc/contact/) can assist schools to coordinate drive-thru clinics for needed immunizations.

Recent data suggests that rates of routine childhood immunizations have dropped during the pandemic. Lack of proper immunization can lead to a vaccine-preventable disease and further complicate symptoms of colds, flu, or COVID-19.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Tracy White, School Health Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at [Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov](file:///%5C%5CWCS02021%5Ccommon%5CFORMS%5CSuperintendent%20Forms%5CTracy.White%40doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 786-8671, or Joanna Pitts, School Health Nurse Consultant, Virginia Department of Health, by email at Joanna.Pitts@vdh.virginia.gov, or by telephone at
(804) 864-7929.

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