



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
1-888-963-7111
TTY: 1-800-735-2989
www.dshs.state.tx.us

April 9, 2012

RE: Required Immunizations for the 2012-2013 School Year

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

Immunizations are an important part of protecting your child's, your family's, and your community's 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 difficult to get your children vaccinated before the school year begins. 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.

Due to a recent policy change, effective January 1, 2012 local health departments and health service regional clinics may not vaccinate insured children using TVFC vaccine. This means that a person with health insurance who has previously been vaccinated in a local health department or health service regional clinic may be referred back to his or her doctor, if the public health clinic does not carry private stock vaccine. Please call your doctor now to set up an appointment if needed. **Please be aware that students without the proper documentation of the required vaccinations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school.**

To determine the specific vaccines that will be required for your child, please read the document included with this letter. This document and more information about required vaccines for school are available on the DSHS Immunization Branch website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com. If you need help determining your child's vaccine requirements for the 2012-2013 school year, please contact your child's doctor.

If you have questions or need additional information, you may call the Immunization Branch Customer Service number (800) 252-9152.

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