

North Carolina-Specific Immunization Laws

Hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B):

North Carolina Immunization Law requires 3 doses of hepatitis B: one dose by age three months, a second dose by age five months and a third dose by age 19 months. The last dose of hepatitis B vaccine series shall not be administered prior to 24 weeks of age. Persons born on or after July 1, 1994 are required to receive the hepatitis B vaccine.

Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccines (DTaP and Tdap):

North Carolina Immunization Law requires five doses of DTaP. Three doses are needed by age seven months and two booster doses, one by age 19 months and the second dose on or after the fourth birthday and before enrolling in school for the first time. If the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday, the fifth dose is not required. A booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is required for individuals attending public school who are entering the sixth grade on or after August 1, 2008, if five years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid. A booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is required for individuals not attending public schools who are 12 years of age on or after August 1, 2008, if five years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid. However, pertussis vaccine is not required for individuals between 7 years of age through the fifth grade for those attending public schools and 7 through 12 years of age for those not attending public schools.

Those individuals enrolling in college or university for the first time on or after July 1, 2008 must have had three doses of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid and a booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) vaccine if a tetanus/diphtheria toxoid or tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine has not been administered within the past 10 years.

Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV):

North Carolina Immunization Law requires four doses of IPV: two doses of trivalent type by age 5 months, a third dose before age 19 months and a booster dose before enrolling in school for the first time. Individuals who receive the third dose of IPV on or after the fourth birthday shall not be required to receive a fourth dose. An individual attending school who has attained his or her 18th birthday is not required to receive polio vaccine.

Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR):

North Carolina Immunization Law requires one dose of MMR on or after age 12 months and before age 16 months and a second dose of measles containing vaccine before enrolling in school for the first time. An individual entering school, college or university on or after July 1, 2008 is required to have a second dose of mumps vaccine.

Varicella vaccine:

North Carolina Immunization Law requires one dose of Varicella be administered on or after age 12 months and before age 19 months, if born on or after April 1, 2001. However, an individual with laboratory test indicating immunity or with a history of varicella disease, documented by a health care provider, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall not be required to receive varicella vaccine. Previous illness shall be documented by a written statement from a health care provider or the individual's parent guardian or person in loco parentis documenting the name of the individual with a history of varicella disease and the approximate date or age of infection. Documentation shall be on or attached to the lifetime immunization card or certificate of immunization.