

Williamson County School Immunization and Physical Exam Requirements

1. A complete, validated **Tennessee Certificate of Immunization** must be on file before the student can attend school per state law T.C.A. 49-6-5001. It should be validated for the grade level of the student. No grace period is allowed.
 - Parents may take their child's immunization records to a Williamson County Health Department or Tennessee licensed healthcare provider to have immunization records transferred to the official Tennessee Certificate of Immunization.
2. **Physical Exam** is required for students entering public school for the first time per the district policy 6.402. This includes Early Childhood, Pre-Kindergarten, or Kindergarten.
 - Physical Exams provide an overall picture of your child's health and can help to identify, prevent, and treat health problems before they become serious.
 - Physical exam may be documented on the immunization certificate or on clinic letterhead from healthcare provider.

Children with Medical or Religious Exemptions to requirements:

1. **Medical Exemptions:** A physician (MD or DO) or the health department is authorized to indicate specific vaccines that are medically exempted (*because* of risk of harm) on the Tennessee Certificate of Immunization. Other vaccines remain required. Nurse practitioners and physician's assistants are not authorized to sign medical exemptions.
2. **Religious Exemption:**
 - a. WCS Affidavit signed by the parent/guardian stating that vaccination conflicts with their religious tenets and practices affirmed under the penalties of perjury; and if student has received some vaccinations
 - b. Tennessee Certificate of Immunization with box checked (section 1a) by healthcare provider to verify the parent/guardian has sought a religious exemption, if immunization information is incomplete. If physical exam for school entry is required, it should be noted by the healthcare provider on the certificate.

Minimum Ages or Dose Intervals: Tennessee follows published CDC guidelines. For vaccines with critical minimum age requirements (e.g., MMR, varicella) or minimum dose intervals, doses can be considered valid if given up to 4 days before the minimum age or dose interval. Doses administered more than 4 days early are considered invalid and should be repeated as recommended.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program.html>.