



John Hellerstedt, M.D. Commissioner

April 15, 2019

RE: Required Immunizations for the 2019-2020 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Child-Care and Pre-Kindergarten:

State law requires students in Texas pre-kindergarten and child-care facilities to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. This letter is to inform you of where you can obtain information about which vaccines your child needs to attend a facility that provides pre-kindergarten or child-care and also to remind you to get your child's vaccinations early—before the busy back-to-school season. Getting your child vaccinated not only protects your child's health, but also that of the community.

To determine the specific vaccines that are required for your child's age, please refer to the *Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Child-Care and Pre-Kindergarten* facilities. This document is available on the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Unit website at <u>https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/</u>.

If you are unsure of where your child can receive vaccines, contact your healthcare provider or local health department. Without the proper documentation of required vaccinations or a valid medical or conscientious exemption, children will not be allowed to attend a facility that provides pre-kindergarten or child-care services.

Should you have any questions about the required vaccines, please consult your healthcare provider. You can also visit the DSHS Immunization Unit website at <u>www.ImmunizeTexas.com</u>, call us at (800) 252-9152, or email us at <u>immunization.info@dshs.texas.gov</u>.

Thank you for keeping your child immunized and free from vaccine-preventable diseases. We wish you a rewarding and productive 2019-2020 school year!

Sincerely,

Diane M. Romnes

Diane M. Romnes Interim Immunization Unit Director