

Dear Parent/Guardian of a High School Senior,

As a state, we have made tremendous progress on our Drive to 55—an initiative to see that 55 percent of Tennesseans have a postsecondary degree by 2025. As you and your student plan for your child’s future after high school, we want to (1) streamline one of the college entry requirements for you and (2) make you aware of an important benefit that may be available to your child.

First, as you likely already know, students planning to attend any postsecondary institution (e.g., college, technical college, etc.) in Tennessee have to provide that school with proof they have had certain vaccines against diseases. In most cases, these are the same vaccines your child needed for kindergarten or seventh grade. Often families have trouble finding old immunization records, and if they cannot find them, they might have to get the vaccines again to be able to go to college.

This year, **with your permission**, we can put the immunization records you provided to your student’s K-12 school into the Tennessee Department of Health’s Immunization Information System, called “TennIIS,” where they will be stored securely and permanently so that any doctor, hospital, or postsecondary institution that needs to know what vaccines your child has had can access them.

If you consent, we will save your student’s vaccine records in TennIIS. Your student’s postsecondary institution will then receive access to this information so you do not have to provide any immunization records. To allow us to save these vaccine records in TennIIS, **please sign and return** the enclosed consent form to        **by**       . If your child is 18 or older, they need to sign their own form. If you do not want to have the immunizations uploaded to TennIIS, simply take no action.

Second, this is a great time to be sure your child has all vaccines he or she needs, including vaccines against meningitis and cancer that are very important for teens and young adults. If you have insurance, you should not have to pay any co-pay or deductible for vaccines your child needs if you get them from an in-network provider. If your child does not have insurance or if you are worried about the cost of vaccines, ask your child’s healthcare provider or your local health department about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Almost half of all children under 19 qualify for free vaccines through the VFC Program (including all uninsured teens), as long as they are under 19 years old—and many clinics, including all of our health departments, provide VFC vaccines.

If you have any questions, please contact Derese Methvin ([Derese.Methvin@tn.gov](mailto:Derese.Methvin@tn.gov)). We wish you and your family a successful year ahead.

Sincerely,

Lori Paisley  
Executive Director, Coordinated School Health

Kelly L. Moore, MD, MPH  
Director, Tennessee Immunization Program

## Parental Consent Form for Sharing Immunization Data with Registries

Tennessee and Federal law allow for the sharing of immunization information between schools, health care providers, and public health agencies if parental consent is provided. One way this is done is by each of these entities contributing the immunization records they have to one computer system that is available only to schools, health care providers, and public health agencies called the Tennessee Immunization Information System (TennIIS). This immunization record service system is operated by the Tennessee Department of Health and contains only basic name and address information, plus immunization data, including vaccines names and dates, from area doctors' offices and other health care providers.

Our school district is part of this immunization record service. This service makes it much easier for us to get copies of your child's immunization record, a requirement for school entry under Tennessee law. We also share copies of the immunization data with this service so you or your child's healthcare provider can access the information in the future. Additionally, your child's immunization information will be accessible to colleges and universities to satisfy their immunization enrollment requirements. This information is used solely to help protect your child and prevent disease by documenting and improving immunization services in our community. The information can only be shared with those entities authorized by Tennessee law (Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-2-101) to receive it.

If you choose to not have your child's immunization information in this system, it does not affect any school services. It may, however, mean more work for you, your child's clinic, and/or school staff to determine your child's immunization status as part of Tennessee's School Immunization Law.

*I authorize <school name> to release my child's immunization record to the public health immunization registry. I understand this information can only be used to improve the quality and timeliness of immunization services and to help schools enforce the School Immunization Law. This includes any immunization information the school currently has on my child plus any it may obtain while the student attends this school.*

- I do authorize
- I do not authorize

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_