

**Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School  
437 Turrett Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

**Board of Trustees Policy**

**STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS POLICY**

The Board of Trustees of the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (“Charter School”) recognizes the necessity that school children be immunized against diseases which spread easily in schools and interrupt school life and learning for individuals and groups. Due to changes in the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) Regulations effective August 1, 2011, this Policy supersedes and replaces all prior policies regarding student immunizations and is in effect beginning August 1, 2011.

In accordance with applicable Pennsylvania regulations, a student shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend school unless the immunization, exemption or provisional admission requirements of the Department of Health, at 28 Pa. Code Chapter 23, Subchapter C (relating to immunization), have been met or the student has received from the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) or his/her designee a medical or religious exemption from immunization under 28 Pa. Code § 23.84 (relating to exemption from immunization). 22 Pa. Code. Chapter 11.20.

In accordance with Title 28, Chapter 23.83 of the Pennsylvania Code, as of August 1, 2011, the Board of Trustees directs the CEO or his/her designee to ascertain that each student has been immunized in accordance with the regulations set forth in Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 23.81-87 and further directs the CEO or his/her designee, in conjunction with the Charter School nurse, to oversee the Charter School’s adherence to the requirements set forth in the applicable regulations and this Immunization Policy as well as any additional applicable immunization requirements mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Below are the immunizations that will be required as a condition of attendance at the Charter School. The CEO or his/her designee, in conjunction with the Charter School nurse, is directed to monitor changes in state regulations regarding immunization requirements and to ensure that the Charter School complies with applicable immunization requirements:

(1) *Diphtheria*. Four or more properly-spaced doses of diphtheria toxoid, which may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form. The fourth dose shall be administered on or after the 4th birthday.

(2) *Tetanus*. Four or more properly-spaced doses of tetanus toxoid, which may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form. The fourth dose shall be administered on or after the 4th birthday. Usually given as DTaP or DTP or DT or Td.

(3) *Poliomyelitis*. Three or more properly spaced doses of either oral polio vaccine or enhanced activated polio vaccine, which may be administered as a single antigen vaccine, or in a combination form. If a child received any doses of inactivated polio vaccine administered prior to 1988, a fourth dose of inactivated polio vaccine is required.

(4) *Measles (rubeola)*. Two properly-spaced doses of live attenuated measles vaccine, the first dose administered at 12 months of age or older, or a history of measles immunity proved by laboratory testing by a laboratory with the appropriate certification. Each dose of measles vaccine may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form. Usually given as MMR.

(5) *German measles (rubella)*. One dose of live attenuated rubella vaccine, administered at 12 months of age or older or a history of rubella immunity proved by laboratory testing by a laboratory with the appropriate certification. Rubella vaccine may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form. Usually given as MMR.

(6) *Mumps*. Two properly-spaced doses of live attenuated mumps vaccine, administered at 12 months of age or older or a physician diagnosis of mumps disease indicated by a written record signed by the physician or the physician's designee. Mumps vaccine may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form. Usually given as MMR.

(7) *Hepatitis B*. Three properly-spaced doses of hepatitis B vaccine, unless a child receives a vaccine as approved by the Food and Drug Administration for a two-dose regimen, or a history of hepatitis B immunity proved by laboratory testing. Hepatitis B vaccine may be administered as single antigen vaccine or in a combination form.

(8) *Chickenpox (varicella)*. One of the following:

(i) *Varicella vaccine*. Two properly-spaced doses of varicella vaccine, the first dose administered at 12 months of age or older. Varicella vaccine may be administered as a single antigen vaccine or in a combination form.

(ii) *Evidence of immunity*. Evidence of immunity may be shown by one of the following:

(A) Laboratory evidence of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease.

(B) A written statement of a history of chickenpox disease from a parent, guardian or physician.

“Attendance at school” is defined, in pertinent part, as attendance at a grade, or special classes, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, including public, private, parochial, vocational, intermediate unit and home education students and students of cyber and charter schools. Attendance at a pre-kindergarten program operated by a school district, an early intervention program operated by a contractor or subcontractor including intermediate units, school districts and private vendors, or at private academic preschools is conditional upon the child’s satisfaction of the immunization requirements specifically set forth in another section: § 27.77. If the CEO or his/her designee has any questions regarding the applicability of the revised regulations to students attending the Charter School at any grade or level, the CEO or his/her designee is directed to contact the Charter School’s solicitor for clarification.

**Grace Period:**

There is a “**grace period**” with regard to vaccinations with which the Charter School must comply. A vaccine dose administered within the 4-day period prior to the minimum age for the vaccination or prior to the end of the minimum interval between doses shall be considered to be a valid dose of the vaccine. A dose administered greater than 4 days prior to minimum age or interval for a dose is invalid for purposes of this regulation and shall be repeated.

**Medical and Religious Exemptions:**

The only permitted exemptions from the immunization requirements listed above are pursuant to the Pennsylvania Code:

- Medical reasons;
- Religious beliefs; or
- Philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction.

The Charter School must adhere to these requirements. For the medical reasons, children need not be immunized if a physician or the physician's designee provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the child. 28 Pa. Code 23.84(a). When the physician determines that immunization is no longer detrimental to the health of the child, the child shall be immunized according to Chapter 23. Regarding the other two exemptions, children need not be immunized if the parent, guardian or emancipated child objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief. 28 Pa. Code 23.84(b).

#### **Foreign exchange students or those visiting Pennsylvania schools:**

Foreign exchange students or foreign students visiting Pennsylvania schools need at least one dose of each antigen and are then granted a provisional enrollment, same as any student enrolling in a Pennsylvania schools.

#### **Homeless students:**

The Charter School shall immediately enroll the student in school, even if the student lacks records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency or other documentation. (See the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Basic Education Circulars for "Education for Homeless Youth" or "Enrollment of Students.")

#### **Responsibilities of Schools and Administrators:**

The CEO or his/her designee is directed to appoint a knowledgeable person (i.e. Charter School nurse, director of Charter School health services) to perform the following:

- (1) Inform the parent, guardian or emancipated child at registration or prior to registration, if possible, of the requirements of Chapter 23.
- (2) Ascertain the immunization status of a child prior to admission to Charter School or continued attendance at Charter School.
  - (i) The parent, guardian or emancipated child shall be asked for a completed certificate of immunization.

(ii) In the absence of a certificate of immunization, the parent, guardian or emancipated child shall be asked for a record or history of immunization which indicates the month, day and year that immunizations were given. This information shall be recorded on the certificate of immunization and signed by the Charter School official or the official's designee, or the details of the record shall be stored in a computer database.

If the knowledgeable person designated by the school administrator is unable to ascertain whether a child has received the immunizations or is exempt under § 23.84 (relating to exemption for immunization), the school administrator may admit the child to school or allow the child's continued attendance at school **only** according to the following:

A child not previously admitted to or not allowed to continue attendance at school because the child has not had the required immunizations shall be admitted to or permitted to continue attendance at school only upon presentation to the school administrator or school administrator's designee of a completed **certificate of immunization or immunization record, upon submission of information sufficient for an exemption under § 23.84, or upon compliance with the below regarding provisional admittance to school.**

*Provisional admittance to school.*

(1) *Multiple dose vaccine series.* If a child has not received all the antigens for a multiple dose vaccine series described in § 23.83, the child may be provisionally admitted to school only if evidence of the administration of at least one dose of each antigen described in § 23.83 for multiple dose vaccine series is given to the school administrator or the administrator's designee and the parent or guardian's plan for completion of the required immunizations is made part of the child's health record.

(2) *Single dose vaccines.* If a child has not received a vaccine for which only a single dose is required, the child may be provisionally admitted to school if the parent or guardian's plan for obtaining the required immunization is made a part of the child's health record.

(3) *Completion of required immunizations.* The plan for completion of the required immunizations shall be reviewed **every 60 days** by the school administrator or the school administrator's designee. Subsequent immunizations shall be entered on the certificate of immunization or

entered in the school's computer database. Immunization requirements described in § 23.83 shall be completed within 8 months of the date of provisional admission to school. If the requirements are not met, the school administrator may not admit the child to school or permit continued attendance after that 8 month provisional period.

The parent or guardian of a child or the emancipated child who has not received the immunizations required under § 23.83 shall be **informed** of the specific immunizations required and **advised** to go to the child's usual source of care or nearest public clinic to obtain the required immunizations.

The school shall maintain **on file** a certificate of immunization for a child enrolled. An alternative to maintaining a certificate on file is to transfer the immunization information from the certificate to a **computer database**. The certificate of immunization or a facsimile thereof generated by computer shall be returned to the parent, guardian or emancipated child or the school shall transfer the certificate of immunization (or facsimile) with the child's record to the new school when a child withdraws, transfers, is promoted, graduates or otherwise leaves the school.

The Charter School may remove a student from school during an outbreak if in Charter School health records, the student is exempt from immunizations.

#### **School Reporting to the Department of Health:**

Below are school reporting requirements with which the Charter School **must** comply:

- (a) The Charter School shall report immunization data to the Department by **October 15** of each year, using forms provided by the Department.
- (b) The school administrator or the administrator's designee shall forward the reports to the Department as indicated on the reporting form provided by the Department.
- (c) Duplicate reports shall be submitted to the county health department if the school is located in a county with a full-time health department.
- (d) The school administrator or the administrator's designee shall ensure that the school's identification information, including the name of the school, school district, county and school address, is correct, and shall make any necessary corrections, prior to submitting the report.
- (e) Content of the reports must include the following information:

- (1) The month, day and year of the report.
- (2) The number of students attending school in each grade-level, or in an ungraded school in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
- (3) The number of doses of each individual antigen given in each grade-level, or in an ungraded school, in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
- (4) The number of students attending school who were classed as medical exemptions in each grade-level, or in an ungraded school, in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
- (5) The number of students attending school who were classed as religious exemptions in each grade level, or in an ungraded school, in each age group, as indicated on the reporting form.
- (6) The number of students provisionally admitted in each grade level or, in an ungraded school, in any age group as indicated on the reporting form.
- (7) The number of students in each grade level who were denied admission because of the student's inability to qualify for provisional admission or, in an ungraded school, in each age group as indicated on the reporting form.
- (8) Other information as required by the Department.

**Department of Health Forms/Monitoring:**

The Department of Health is to provide the certificates of immunization to schools. If the Charter School does not receive same, the CEO or his/her designee shall direct that the appropriate request be made to obtain the certificates and shall consult with the school's solicitor as may be necessary.

The Department will monitor for compliance and will have access to school immunization records whether the records are maintained as certificates or whether the records are contained in a school's computer database. The CEO or his/her designee, in conjunction with the school nurse, must maintain immunization records in accordance with Department of Health regulations and facilitate appropriate monitoring and access procedures.

**TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.**

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary