



## AFS-USA Immunization Requirements for Inbound Participants – NH18

U.S. high schools have become increasingly stringent in their requirements for enrolling foreign exchange students. It's mandatory that these minimum immunization requirements be met and in some cases applicants may be asked to receive additional vaccinations. Therefore, AFS-USA requests that the following information be distributed to students applying to study in the U.S. as early as possible so that the applicant has sufficient time to complete the vaccination series if necessary.

Please reiterate to students applying to be hosted in the U.S. that, barring exceptional circumstances such as vaccine shortages or lack of availability in their home country, they **must receive the following immunizations or, at minimum, have them scheduled and a date reported to AFS-USA** in order to be granted 'A' or 'FF' status by AFS-USA at the time their application is reviewed. It is equally important that any scheduled vaccines be thus completed **prior to departure from their home country**. If they arrive to the U.S. without the following immunizations, **many schools will refuse to enroll them and/or will not allow them to participate in school sports**. Additionally, if student arrives without the following immunizations, it is their responsibility and that of their natural families to cover any costs related to immunizations administered to them in the USA.

Students will remain in Priority Finalist (FF) status until expected dates for remaining vaccines have been communicated to AFS-USA.

In order to determine compliance, vaccine dates must list by DAY/MONTH/YEAR:	
<p><b>1. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella): 2 doses</b></p> <p><b>2. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis: Students must receive 1 dose Pertussis after their 11th birthday and 1 dose of Tetanus and Diphtheria within the past 10 years.</b></p> <p>If a student has not had a series of immunizations that meets these requirements (or it cannot be documented as having been completed) 1 dose of the T-dap vaccine will satisfy all Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis requirements. The T-dap vaccine can be given regardless of how recently a Td (Tetanus Diphtheria) vaccine was administered.</p> <p><b>3. OPV/IPV (Polio): 3 – 4 doses (description below)</b></p> <p>a) If a student received all IPV or all OPV series, 3 doses are required with the last given on or after the 4th birthday.</p> <p>b) If a student received a combination of IPV and OPV vaccinations, 4 doses are required with the last dose on or after the 4th birthday.</p> <p><b>4. Hepatitis A: 2 doses</b></p> <p><b>5. Hepatitis B: 3 doses</b></p>	<p><b>6. Varivax (Varicella, or the Chickenpox vaccine): 1 dose*</b> (unless stu has had Chicken Pox, in which case we need the month and year the applicant had the disease)</p> <p>* In some regions of the USA, 2 doses are required.</p> <p><b>7. TB test within 1 year of application:</b> In cases where an applicant has received a 'positive' TB test result the applicant must receive a chest x-ray confirming whether they have TB. X-ray results must be indicated on the medical form. Chest X-ray must also have been taken within a year of application. The BCG Vaccine is also acceptable.</p> <p><b>8. Meningococcal (Meningitis) vaccine:</b> MCV4, the newest version of the Meningococcal vaccine, is now recommended for children who are 11 to 12 years old, with a booster to be given before entering high school or college.</p> <p>Immunization against <u>Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Meningitis, Chicken Pox and Polio are mandatory</u> for entrance into U.S. schools.</p>

**Note:** As each U.S. high school sets their own standards for vaccines, this form may not include all immunizations required by a student's host school. AFS will contact you should we learn of additional vaccination requirements, however, **it is the responsibility of the participant and his or her natural parents to verify these requirements via the school's website, found on Form E of the Host Family Application, or the State Law and Vaccine Requirement per the below.**

For information on general vaccination requirements for each U.S. State, go to:

<http://www.nvic.org/vaccine-laws/state-vaccine-requirements.aspx>

**To access information** – Choose State Requirements on the bottom of the screen and select the state you have been placed in, click "Search". Information for each state requirement will displayed. You must have all the immunizations for your state of residence in the U.S. and any other immunizations that the school or school district requires before you will be allowed to begin your program in school.