



July 9, 2004

Dear School Administrator:

Re: New Immunization Requirements for School Admittance

Important immunization requirements for enrollment will affect schools this school year. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of Health (TDH) will assist with implementing the new vaccine requirements and provide information and technical assistance.

**Provisional Enrollment Criteria**

On April 15, 2004, in response to a joint request by TEA and TDH to clarify portions of the Education Code relating to provisional enrollment and immunization requirements, the Texas Attorney General issued No. GA-0178. The Attorney General determined that only TDH may adopt rules relating to provisional admission and immunization requirements.

Attached is a list of Frequently Asked Questions that has specific information about provisional enrollment. All public and private schools are expected to enforce the rules, in addition to all other age-appropriate vaccine requirements.

**Length of Validity for Conscientious Exemption from Immunizations**

On March 11, 2004, the Texas Board of Health approved final rules concerning immunization requirements for Texas schools. This rule adoption changed the length of validity from immunization from five years to two years for conscientious exemption from immunization. However, those exemption affidavits submitted to school before March 11, 2004 continues to be valid for the full five-year period.

For more information about immunization requirements go to: [www.ImmunizeTexas.com](http://www.ImmunizeTexas.com) or contact the Immunization Division Customer Service team at (512) 458-7284 or (800) 252-9152.

Our best wishes for a productive school year. Both TDH and TEA are available to assist you with information to create a safe, healthy educational environment for Texas schoolchildren.

Sincerely,

Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner of Health

Shirley J. Neeley, PhD.  
Commissioner of Education

Attachment