

Descriptor Term:

JGCB

**HEALTH POLICIES REGARDING
IMMUNIZATIONS AND MEDICATIONS**

ISSUE DATE: 1-5-04

According to Mississippi State Law, any child who plans to attend any public or private school, including kindergarten, shall first have been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the state health officials. A certificate of compliance shall be presented to the school when a child initially enters the school upon registration. This certificate shall be issued by the local health officer or physician on forms specified by the Mississippi State Board of Health and shall be filed with the child's record.

If a child offers to enroll at a school without having completed the required vaccinations:

- A. The local health officer (not school official) may grant a period of time up to 90 days for such completion when, in the opinion of the health officer, such delay will not cause undue risk to the child, the school or the community. No child shall be enrolled without having at least one dose of each specified vaccine.
- B. Any child not in compliance at the end of 90 days from the opening of school must be suspended until he/she is in compliance unless the health officer attributes the delay to the lack of supply of the vaccine.

A certificate of exemption from vaccination for medical reasons may be offered on behalf of a child by a duly licensed physician and may be accepted by the local health officer when, in his opinion, such exemption will not cause undue risk to the community. The Mississippi Supreme Court has ruled that religious exemptions are **not** acceptable.

MEDICATIONS:

The parent/guardian shall:

1. Provide the school with a health plan for their child who has a special medical problem (i.e. allergic reactions, asthma, etc.)
2. Present a medical consent form signed by the parent to the principal or his/her designee.
3. Bring medication in the original prescription bottle, properly labeled by a registered pharmacist as prescribed by law. The medication should be given to the school official responsible for administering the medication to the child.
4. The school will administer only the over-the-counter medicine provided to the school by the parent/guardian or for which the parent/guardian gives consent for the school to administer.
5. In the event of an emergency during which a child may need to be transported to the hospital, the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the school will have the child transported to the hospital and will continue to try and contact the parent/guardian. Any expense incurred will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

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6. Provide documentation from the doctor, if the child is to be given sample medications.
7. Policy JGCBA provides specific provisions for the self-administration of asthma medications.

Legal Ref: MS Code 37-7-301(i); 41-23-37
Guidelines Mississippi State Board of Health