



TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian/Person Responsible for Student's Care:

The Oklahoma State Board of Health requires students in grade _____ to receive Hepatitis B Vaccine for school admission. Three doses are needed for full protection. The second dose is given one month after the first dose. The third dose may be given two months after the second dose but not sooner than four months after the first dose.

WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). This virus can enter the blood stream, attack the liver, and cause severe illness. It may cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and even death. Symptoms of infection take anywhere from two to six months to present. Most people who get hepatitis B as babies or children don't look or feel sick. Over half of the adults that get hepatitis B never have any symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they include loss of appetite, yellow skin and eyes (jaundice), nausea and vomiting, fever, weakness, abdominal pain, and dark urine.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

There is a vaccine to prevent Hepatitis B. A series of three doses of vaccine is required. To complete the series takes four months. Tulsa Public Schools Health Services Department wants to make it easy for your child to receive this series.

HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

School Nurses from Tulsa Public Schools Health Services Department will administer the vaccine with your written permission. Your child will receive the 1st dose on _____, the 2nd dose on _____, and the 3rd dose on _____.

Flyers will be sent out to notify parents before each dose. You may be present if you wish. This vaccine will be given in the upper arm. Staff will explain the process, encourage, and offer words of comfort in an effort to make the event less stressful for your child. Your child will be expected to cooperate. The clinic area will be private.

(Over)

Proof of completing the series will be issued following the last dose. If your child misses a dose, parents should make arrangements to finish the series at the school site, Tulsa City-County Health Department, or your health care provider.

REQUIREMENTS OF PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT'S CARE. BEFORE YOUR CHILD CAN BE VACCINATED YOU MUST:

- Read the enclosed information about Hepatitis B
- Complete, sign, and return the consent form to the school. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE IMMUNIZED WITHOUT A COMPLETED CONSENT FORM.** This form will establish a permanent computer immunization record for your child through the Oklahoma State Immunization Information System (OSIIS).

Tulsa Public Schools Health Services Department and your school administration urge you to take advantage of this opportunity, or to use your private health care provider. Please begin as soon as possible and give your child this protection.

If you have concerns or questions regarding Hepatitis B vaccine, please contact your school nurse or the Health Services Department (746-6364/6365).