



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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Vaccination Requirements for Expanded Transitional Kindergarten

School districts in California are now required by state law to expand their Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classrooms until all four-year-olds are eligible for TK by 2025-26. A [transitional kindergarten](#) is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. In 2023-24 (pursuant to Education Code section 48000[c]) children are eligible for TK if they turn age five between September 2 and April 2.

As students begin completing school physicals and updating immunizations over the summer months, it is important to note that **children entering TK are required to be up-to-date on kindergarten vaccinations**:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap, or Td);
- Polio (OPV or IPV)
- Hepatitis B;
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

Prior to the expansion of TK, many children did not receive these vaccines until they entered kindergarten at age five. Key reminders:

- [California's kindergarten immunization requirements](#) specify that four-year-old children need their kindergarten immunizations prior to the first day of transitional kindergarten, where they could potentially be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases. The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy Family Physicians recommend kindergarten immunizations starting as young as four years of age. (See [CDC's Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#) for more details.) Children need documentation of required immunizations or a valid exemption prior to admission to transitional kindergarten.
- For students who are three years old at the time of admission to TK ([Education Code section 48000\[c\]](#)), schools are recommended to initially apply the [pre-kindergarten immunization requirements](#) and to follow up with these students once they turn four years old to apply the TK/K immunization requirements.
- In addition to required vaccines, children are [recommended to receive an annual influenza vaccine and stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- Vaccine storage and handling information and job aids are provided by the California Vaccines for Children program for your review: <https://eziz.org/resources/storage-handling-job-aids>

For more information, please contact Kristin Edler, Supervising Public Health Nurse, at kedler@co.slo.ca.us or 805-781-5500.

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