Dear Parents,

We have attached the immunization requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the necessary documents. Please read them carefully. Students **MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** if the new requirements are not met and/or documents are not received by the first day of school.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mandates that all students must be immunized before attending school. It also requires that schools submit immunization records to the State for tracking. However, within the Code, the State also provides an opportunity for parents to control the immunization schedule and regime for their child(ren); this portion of the Code states “Children need not be immunized if the parent, guardian or emancipated child objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.” When students are partially immunized or not immunized by the beginning of the school year, parents must sign and return a **Statement of Exemption**, which is located at the bottom of the immunization card.

Unvaccinated siblings of students that contract highly contagious diseases may be excluded from school for the length of the incubation period in order to protect the greater community and reduce the likelihood of a Health Department mandated exclusion for the entire school. In addition, if your child is exempt from immunizations, he/she may be removed from school during an outbreak. All records are filed with the State through the Owen J. Roberts School District annually.

Please contact Heather Gustafson at hgustafson@kimberton.org with any questions related to immunization requirements.
Dear KWS Families,

Recently an article appeared in the New York Times about an outbreak of chickenpox at a Waldorf school in North Carolina. The fact that this article appeared in the Times is a reflection of the contentious nature of the topic of vaccinations for children. In order to avoid confusion or misinformation about how Kimberton works with vaccinations of students I am writing to share our vaccination policy and practices with you.

First and foremost, KWS follows state law and immunization requirements put in place by the state of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Pennsylvania is one of a number of states that requires parents to immunize school age children and also allows for parents to claim a philosophical or religious exemption to vaccinating. KWS is required by the Chester County Health Department to keep records of immunizations or exemptions for all of our students and to report these records to the Health Department on an annual basis, which we do. This is why we require that all immunization records be up to date by the beginning of each school year before a student can attend classes. Heather Gustafson, our Health Records Manager is responsible for this record keeping.

If we do have diagnosed cases of chickenpox in our student body reported to us by parents, we report these cases to the Health Department as required by law. Health care providers are also required to report diagnosed cases to the Health Department. When there are active cases of chickenpox in the school community, the Health Department may decide to invoke an exclusion protocol. That protocol requires that any student be excluded from school who cannot prove immunity to chickenpox through either vaccinations records, or a blood test that shows antibodies to the chickenpox from a previous illness. The exclusion period is for 21 days and can be started again by the Health Department if new cases appear in the school. A few years ago we went through this scenario. Many of our students have started or have completed the vaccination protocol for varicella or have contracted chicken pox and are now immune. Unvaccinated siblings of students that contract highly contagious diseases may be excluded from school for the length of the incubation period in order to protect the greater community and reduce the likelihood of a Health Department mandated exclusion for the entire school.

We urge parents to consult with their health care provider in making immunization decisions in accordance with the law. We understand that there are varying viewpoints on this issue, and as the law in Pennsylvania gives parents an option in terms of vaccinating their children, we strongly recommend that parents discuss immunization with their physician. Since we are part of a community, and because our decisions potentially impact others as well as our own family, we also advise our parents to
consider their social and civic responsibility as members of the greater community when making decisions regarding immunization.

I am also including here a statement on vaccinations from AWSNA (the Association of Waldorf School of North America), which KWS is a member of:

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America wishes to state unequivocally that our educational objectives do not include avoidance of, or resistance to, childhood immunization. The health, safety, and wellbeing of children are our forefront concerns.

- All members of our association are schools or institutions that are free to make independent school policy decisions in accordance with AWSNA’s membership and accreditation criteria. Our membership and accreditation criteria require schools to be compliant with national, state, provincial, and local laws. While policy decisions regarding immunizations may vary from school to school, such decisions are made in accordance with legal requirements set by local, state, provincial or federal government.

- The Association encourages parents to consider their civic responsibility in regards to the decision of whether or not to immunize against any communicable disease, but ultimately, the decision to immunize or not, is one made by parents in consultation with their family physician.

I hope this is helpful in understand Kimberton’s approach to vaccinations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hughes, Dean of School
SCHOOL VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS

FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES, CHILDREN NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis
  - 1 dose on or after the 4th birthday.
  - Usually given as DTP or DTaP or if medically advisable, DT or Td
- 4 doses of polio
  - Fourth dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given. A fourth dose is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella
  - Usually given as MMR
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had at least one dose of the above vaccinations or risk exclusion.

- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within the first five days of school or risk exclusion. If the next dose is not the final dose of the series, the child must also provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- If a child does not have all the doses listed above, needs additional doses, and the next dose is not medically appropriate, the child must provide a medical plan (red and white card) within the first five days of school for obtaining the required immunizations or risk exclusion.
- The medical plan must be followed or risk exclusion.
FOR ATTENDANCE IN 7TH GRADE:

• 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) on the first day of 7th grade.

• 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) on the first day of 7th grade. **ON THE FIRST DAY OF 7TH GRADE**, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

FOR ATTENDANCE IN 12TH GRADE:

• 1 dose of MCV on the first day of 12th grade. If one dose was given at 16 years of age or older, that shall count as the 12th grade dose. **ON THE FIRST DAY OF 12TH GRADE**, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have had the above vaccines or risk exclusion.

The vaccines required for entrance, 7th grade and 12th grade continue to be required in each succeeding school year.

These requirements allow for the following exemptions: medical reason, religious belief, or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Even if your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be excluded from school during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

Pennsylvania’s school immunization requirements can be found in 28Pa.CODEx CH.23 (School Immunization). Contact your healthcare provider or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for more information.
**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VACCINE Circle appropriate item</th>
<th>Enter month, day, and year when immunization doses listed below were given.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Td or DT)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (TdP)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio (OPV or IPV)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles - mumps - rubella (MMR)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / or Measles serology: Date  Titer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (vaccine or disease)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / Rubella serology: Date  Titer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal (MCV)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / Mumps disease diagnosed by a physician: Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATEMENT OF EXEMPTION TO IMMUNIZATION LAW**

**MEDICAL EXEMPTION**

The physical condition of the above-named child is such that immunization would endanger life or health. 

Signed ___________________________  Date ____________

(PHYSICIAN)

**RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION**

State your reason for requesting this exemption.

Signed ___________________________  (PARENT OR GUARDIAN)  (Date)

**PHILOSOPHICAL/STRONG MORAL OR ETHICAL CONViction EXEMPTION**

State your reason for requesting this exemption.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VACCINE</th>
<th>Enter month, day and year each immunization will be given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTP, DTP-T or DT)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio (OPV or IPV)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / 3 / / 4 / / 5 / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles - mumps - rubella (MMR)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / or measles serology Date Titer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / Rubella serology Date Titer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal (MCV)</td>
<td>1 / / 2 / / Mumps disease diagnosed by a physician, Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attach EHR of vaccines already given.

X

**Signature** (PLEASE CIRCLE - physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, local health department)
Exemptions to the school laws for immunizations are:

- medical reasons;
- religious beliefs; and
- philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction.

If your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be removed from school during an outbreak.

**VACCINE SAFETY**

- Vaccines are held to the highest standard of safety.
- The United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in history.
- Vaccines are continually monitored for safety and effectiveness.

Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 PA Code Ch.23 (School Immunization).

Contact your health care provider or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

Vaccine information can be found at: [www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov](http://www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov)

**PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

**IMMUNIZE --**
Don’t Wait. Vaccinate.

Children in **ALL** grades (K-12) need the following **immunizations for attendance:**

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis* (1 dose on or after 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella**
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

**Seventh through 12th Grade ADDITIONAL immunization requirements for attendance:**

- 2 doses meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
  - First dose is given 11-15 years of age; a second dose is required at age 16 or entry into 12th grade.
  - If the dose was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required.
- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Td)

* Usually given as DTaP or DTP or DT or Td
** Usually given as MMR