

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2026

An act amending title 19, Virgin Islands Code, to establish immunization requirements for children and students enrolling in educational institutions in the Virgin Islands; to provide for immunization exemptions; and to require electronic reporting of immunization compliance to the Virgin Islands Department of Health through the Virgin Islands Immunization Registry (VIIRS)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 19 Virgin Islands Code is amended by adding the following part IX:

“Part IX. Immunizations

Chapter 76. Pre-Adolescent and Adolescent Immunization Requirements

§ 4118. Immunization Card

(a) All pre-adolescent and adolescent children entering daycare, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, or high school in public, private, or parochial institutions, and any student enrolling for the first time at an institution of higher education located in the Virgin Islands must have a valid immunization card issued by the Virgin Islands Department of Health, United States Department of Health and Human Services, or certificate of immunization if from a country outside of the United States, or present evidence of an immunization program in progress. A pre-adolescent or adolescent child, or any student enrolling for the first time at an institution of higher education located in the Virgin Islands who is in the process of completing a required vaccination series shall complete all required vaccine doses in accordance with the immunization schedule established by the Department of Health.

(1) The immunization card or certificate must include satisfactory evidence of immunity to or immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases including Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, and Meningococcal.

(2) The immunization card or certificate must reflect satisfactory evidence of immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to the schedule established by the Department of Health.

(3) A student transferring to the Virgin Islands from another school system must present a valid immunization card as issued by the Virgin Islands Department of Health, United States Department of Health and Human Services, or certificate of immunization if from a country outside of the United States, or shall present documentation to the school the student will be attending demonstrating that the student has received at least one dose of each required vaccine and is actively completing the remaining doses in accordance with the schedule established by the Department of Health.

§ 4119. Prohibition

(a) The superintendent, principal, or head administrator of the institution, or the designee thereof, is prohibited from knowingly admitting or retaining any student who has not submitted acceptable evidence of immunization as provided in § 4118.

(1) The superintendent, principal, or head administrator of the institution, or the designee thereof, shall ensure compliance with § 4118 and shall:

(i) maintain records of student immunizations and electronically report such records to the Virgin Islands Department of Health through the Virgin Islands Immunization Registry ("VIIRS"), the territorial electronic immunization data system maintained by the Department of Health;

(ii) make immunization records available for inspection by the Virgin Islands Department of Health Adolescent Immunization Coordinator; and

(iii) report outbreaks or confirmed or suspected cases of vaccine-preventable diseases to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Epidemiology Division.

(b) The superintendent, principal, or head administrator of the institution, or the designee thereof, who fails to electronically report a student vaccination record to the VIIRS or fails to report an outbreak or potential outbreak to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Epidemiology Division, shall be subject to a fine of \$1,000 per violation, which shall be assessed against the school, kindergarten, university, or daycare facility.

§ 4120. Exemptions

(a) A student is exempt from complying with the school entry requirements of this section if the student provides an immunization exemption form issued by the Virgin Islands Department of Health. An exemption shall be valid for one academic year and must be resubmitted annually thereafter.

(1) A parent or guardian seeking to exempt a child from immunization for medical or religious reasons shall obtain an exemption form from the Virgin Islands Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Clinic.

(2) A parent or guardian seeking to exempt a child from immunization for medical reasons shall obtain a physical examination and evaluation conducted by a licensed physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) and shall submit supporting medical documentation to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Clinic.

(3) A parent or guardian seeking to exempt a child from immunization for religious reasons shall, prior to approval of the exemption, attend a one-hour counseling session administered by the Virgin Islands Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Clinic. The counseling session shall include a one-on-one discussion with a public health clinician, an educational video presentation, and the provision of written educational materials regarding immunization. Upon completion of the session, the parent or guardian shall sign an acknowledgment confirming participation, which shall be maintained by the Department of Health as part of the exemption record.

§ 4121. Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at an educational institution or facility, the superintendent, principal, or head administrator of the institution, or the designee thereof, may, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Health, exclude from attendance any unimmunized student for a period of not less than 21 days or until two incubation periods of the disease have elapsed, whichever is longer. An excluded student shall, prior to reinstatement, present documentation of compliance with the counseling requirements set forth in § 4120 and, if applicable, an updated exemption form.

§ 4122. Penalties

The superintendent, principal, or head administrator of the institution, or the designee thereof, is authorized to suspend or prohibit the admission of any student whose parent refuses to comply with the policies and rules for immunization unless exempted as stated in § 4120.

§ 4123 Provider Reporting Requirements

(a) The Commissioner of Health shall require all healthcare providers, hospitals, and medical centers to report all administered vaccines within 24 hours to the VIIRS. Healthcare providers, hospitals, and medical centers shall also report confirmed cases of vaccine-preventable diseases to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Epidemiology Division. Reporting shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner.

(1) The reporting of patient demographic information under this subsection shall be limited to the necessary information to ensure patient confidentiality while providing the data required to calculate the territorial immunization rate. For purposes of this paragraph, patient demographic information shall include:

- (i) age;
- (ii) race;
- (iii) ethnicity;
- (iv) nationality;
- (v) citizenship; and
- (vi) territorial district.

(b) The Virgin Islands Department of Health Immunization Program is authorized to examine and obtain relevant patient medical records of individuals diagnosed with, or reasonably suspected of having, a vaccine-preventable disease for the purpose of epidemiological investigation, disease surveillance, and the prevention or control of outbreaks.

(c) A healthcare provider, hospital, or medical center shall permit the Virgin Islands Department of Health Immunization Program to inspect and obtain copies of relevant patient medical records and medical-related information as authorized under subsection (b).

(1) The release of medical records or medical-related patient information to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Immunization Program pursuant to this section shall not constitute a violation of patient confidentiality under the laws of the Virgin Islands and shall not subject the provider or its employees to civil or criminal liability under territorial law.

(d) A healthcare provider, hospital, or medical center that fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of \$500 per violation.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on August 26, 2026.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 28th day of August, A.D., 2026.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Milton E. Potter".

Milton E. Potter
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Avery L. Lewis".

Avery L. Lewis
Secretary



Bill No. 36- 0278 is hereby approved.

**Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of
the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, this 4th day of September, 2026 A.D.**


Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor