

LAWS OF GUYANA

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCHOOL CHILDREN)
IMMUNISATION ACT

CHAPTER 35:02

Act
32 of 1974

Current Authorised Pages

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Note

on

Subsidiary Legislation

This Chapter contains no subsidiary legislation

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PUBLIC HEALTH (SCHOOL CHILDREN)
IMMUNISATION ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Production of certificate of immunisation before admission to school or day-care centre.
4. Powers of the Minister.
5. Penalties.
6. Power to amend the Schedule.
7. Regulations.
8. This Act to prevail over the Education Act.

SCHEDULE— Specified diseases.

32 of 1974 **An Act to make provision for the immunisation of persons seeking entry into schools and day-care centres against certain communicable diseases, and for other purposes connected therewith.**

Short title. **1.** This Act may be cited as the Public Health (School Children) Immunisation Act.

Interpretation. **2.** In this Act—

“certificate of immunisation” means a certificate signed by a Health Officer certifying that the person named therein is immune from a communicable disease, that

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is to say, the person has—

- (a) been inoculated with serum and has had a successful vaccination; or
- (b) suffered from a communicable disease and acquired his own immunity;

Schedule. “communicable disease” means any disease specified in the Schedule;

“day-care centre” means any premises, other than premises used mainly as a private dwelling, where children above the age of six months are received and taken care of for a day or part thereof;

“Health Officer” means a duly qualified medical practitioner registered under any law for the time being in force in Guyana and includes any person authorised by the Ministry to administer vaccines;

“parent” includes a guardian;

“school” means an establishment or institution established mainly for the purpose of providing education suitable for persons who have attained the age of three years, but have not attained the age of eighteen years;

“Supervisor” means a person who is directly responsible for the management, control and supervision of a day-care centre during the hours when children are admitted and cared for therein.

Production of
certificate of
immunisation
before

3. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall be admitted to a school or day-care centre unless that person produces a certificate of immunisation to the Head Teacher or Principal of the school, or the Supervisor, as the case may be.

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admission to
school or day-
care centre.

(2) If a person produces a certificate signed by a Health Officer certifying that immunisation against any communicable disease is not advisable on medical grounds, a certificate of immunisation is not required for the purpose of subsection (1).

(3) Where the production of a certificate of immunisation is not required with respect to a person by virtue of subsection (2), the Head Teacher or Principal of the school, or the Supervisor, as the case may be, shall enter the name of that person in a register kept for the purpose.

Powers of the
Minister.

4. If any communicable disease becomes epidemic, or if an epidemic of any such disease is threatened the Minister may, notwithstanding section 3(2), by notice —

- (a) suspend persons whose names are recorded in the register in pursuance of section 3(3) from attending any school or day-care centre; and
- (b) direct that admission to any school or day-care centre shall be refused to every person who does not comply with the provisions of section 3(1).

Penalties.

5. Every Head Teacher or Principal of a school, and every Supervisor, who contravenes the provisions of —

- (a) section 3(1) or section 4 is liable on summary conviction to a fine of nineteen thousand five hundred dollars;
- (b) section 3(3) is liable on summary conviction to a fine of six thousand five hundred dollars.

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Power to
amend the
Schedule.

6. The Minister may, by order, vary or amend the Schedule or substitute a new Schedule in place thereof.

Regulations.

7. The Minister may make Regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

This Act to
prevail over the
Education Act.
c. 39:01

8. This Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Education Act.

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SCHEDULE

SPECIFIED DISEASES

B.C.G. (Calmet Guerin)
Diphtheria
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
Poliomyelitis
Small Pox
Tetanus
