

OIST School Aged Program Vaccination Requirements and Policy

Effective on November 6, 2025

This document outlines the vaccination requirements for the children enrolled in the OIST School Aged Program (SAP) and parents' responsibility to be compliant with the SAP vaccination requirements.

1. Purpose

Vaccines are an effective means of preventing life-threatening illnesses by boosting the body's natural immune response to diseases caused by viruses and bacteria. The SAP requires all the children enrolled to be vaccinated for certain diseases in order to perpetuate herd immunity. Herd immunity can be achieved in a community when such a high percentage of its members have been immunized from a particular disease that the disease cannot gain a foothold in the community. Herd immunity protects not only those who have been vaccinated, but also those with compromised or weak immune systems, including infants.

Children attending the SAP come from all over the world and travel overseas frequently, increasing the risks for communicable diseases to be brought in the community. The SAP is responsible to maintain a healthy and safe childcare environment and vaccination requirements for enrollment is an important measure to protect its children and staff members.

*The SAP is a private childcare program and there is no legal obstacle for setting a qualification that a child must have received certain vaccinations for enrollment.

2. Vaccination requirements for children enrolled in the SAP

The SAP requires children to be vaccinated against certain communicable diseases as a condition for both initial and continued enrollment. Vaccination requirements vary by country, and the SAP follows the immunization schedule recommended and endorsed by the Japanese government.

The following vaccinations are routine vaccines for children from newborn to 6 years old in Japan. The SAP expects that children enrolled in the SAP to be fully vaccinated

following the recommended vaccination schedule.

Vaccines and doses required for SAP enrollment

Vaccine	Doses
BCG	One time only
Rotavirus (RV1/RV5)	RV1: 1st 2nd / RV5: 1st 2nd 3rd
DPT-IPV-Hib	1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Streptococcus Pneumococcal	1st 2nd 3rd 4th
Japanese Encephalitis	1st 2nd 3rd
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	1st 2nd
MR	1st 2nd
Hepatitis B	1st 2nd 3rd

Note:

- Rotavirus: Monovalent rotavirus vaccines require 2 doses, while pentavalent rotavirus vaccines require 3 doses.
- DPT-IPV-Hib: 5-in-1 combination vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)
- MR: Measles and rubella combined vaccine
- In addition to the required vaccines, the SAP strongly recommends that children receive vaccines against mumps and influenza.
- Children are exempt from vaccines that were not part of the routine vaccination schedule at their recommended age of administration.

The SAP follows the most up-to-date vaccination schedule recommended by the Japan Pediatric Society.

https://www.jpeds.or.jp/modules/activity/index.php?content_id=138 (Japanese)

https://www.jpeds.or.jp/modules/en/index.php?content_id=7 (English)

If vaccination requirements are not met, the child may be denied admission to the SAP.

3. Continued enrollment and vaccination compliance

To ensure the ongoing health and safety of all children and staff, children enrolled at the SAP are required to remain up to date with the recommended vaccination schedule. Parents or guardians must provide updated proof of vaccinations as requested, including at scheduled intervals throughout the child's enrollment. Failure

to maintain compliance with the vaccination requirements may result in suspension or termination of enrollment, except in cases where a valid medical exemption has been provided.

4. Acceptable proof of vaccinations

Parents or guardians are required to submit proof of their child's vaccinations at the time of initial enrollment and subsequently as requested by SAP. Acceptable forms of proof include one of the following:

- Maternal and Child Health Handbook (母子手帳: boshitecho)
- An official vaccination record issued by a recognized health authority (state/regional/national) from any country that shows the month, day and year the vaccination was administered
- A form showing the signature or stamp of a licensed physician or public health personnel that shows the month, day and year the vaccination was administered
- International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis

Parents are responsible for providing translation to the vaccination records along with a copy of the original record if the documents are not in Japanese or English.

5. Proof of immunity through prior infection

If a child has not received vaccines for measles, rubella, varicella, or mumps due to prior infection with the respective virus, the SAP may require the submission of a medical certificate verifying that the child has been infected with the specific virus.

6. Vaccination exemptions

Exemptions from vaccinations for SAP enrollment are available for medical reasons only. For medical exemptions, parents are required to provide a written statement in English or Japanese by a licensed physician that states that the physical condition of the child is such, or medical circumstances relating to the child are such, that vaccination is not medically advisable. In this case, the child can be admitted to the SAP and exempt from the required vaccinations for enrollment.

7. Vaccines not available in your country

If a required vaccine is not available in the country where the child resides/resided, parents must inform the SAP. Parents should then consult with a local healthcare provider if the vaccine is recommended.

8. Missed, delayed and overdue vaccinations

If one or more required vaccines are missed, delayed or overdue, parents or guardians will be asked to consult with a licensed healthcare provider to establish an appropriate catch-up vaccination schedule. Adherence to the catch-up schedule as advised by a medical professional is required for both admission and continued enrollment. If certain overdue vaccines cannot be administered because it is not medically advisable due to age restrictions, parents will be asked to submit an opinion letter from a licensed physician explaining the situation.

If the BCG (tuberculosis) vaccine is not available in the child's home country, it may not be medically advisable to receive the vaccine at the time of enrollment. In such cases, parents or guardians are required to submit a TB-free certificate (medical certificate confirming that the child is free of tuberculosis) at enrollment. Additionally, a TB-free certificate must be submitted upon request by the SAP.

7. Outbreak response and exclusion policy

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, the SAP reserves the right to implement exclusion measures for children who are not vaccinated against the specified disease. Such measures will be carried out in accordance with guidance from local public health authorities and relevant Japanese laws, including the Infectious Diseases Control Law, to ensure the health and safety of all individuals within the SAP and OIST community. Exclusion decisions will be made in consultation with OIST Occupational Health Doctor and may be temporary until the outbreak is controlled. The SAP will communicate promptly with parents or guardians regarding any exclusion and the criteria for the child's return. This policy respects individual circumstances, including medical exemptions documented by licensed physicians.