

How Family Child Care Programs Can Support Immunization



Why is immunization important?

Good health and safety practices form the foundation of quality family child care settings. Immunization helps keep infants and young children healthy. Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and whooping cough can occur in child care settings. Children can get diseases if they are not vaccinated. This includes babies who are too young for vaccination and children who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions. Family child care workers can also get sick from these diseases and spread them to children.

How can I support immunization?

1.

Check immunization records regularly.

- Each state has different immunization requirements for children in child care.
- You may be able to use your state Immunization Information System (IIS) to check vaccination records.
- You should check records on a regular basis to make sure children stay up to date.

3.

Ensure that you and your staff are up to date on your own vaccines.

- Learn which vaccines you may need by using CDC's vaccine self-assessment tool (link below).
- Some states require vaccination of child care workers.

2.

Educate yourself and your staff about immunization, including:

- Symptoms of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, flu and whooping cough.
- Diseases that must be reported to the local health department.
- Vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NOTE: CDC may recommend more vaccines than your state requires.
- How to answer common questions parents may have about vaccines.

4.

Educate parents and connect them to credible resources.

- Share CDC's recommended immunization schedule.
- Tell them about the 14 diseases that childhood vaccines can prevent.
- Refer parents to credible websites like CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- Share CDC resources on your website or social media channels.
- Tell parents about the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), which provides vaccines at low or no cost for children who are unable to pay.

Where can I find more information?

- Health department locator: www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories
- CDC's vaccine website for parents: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents
- CDC's Frequently Asked Questions about Infant Immunization: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/parent-questions.html
- CDC's Adult Vaccine Self-Assessment Tool: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adultquiz
- Vaccines for Children Program: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html
- AAP Healthy Children: www.healthychildren.org
- Contact your licensor or state health department for guidance on how to handle requests to care for children who are not immunized.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Created in Collaboration with the National Association for Family Child Care