

Immunization Guidance for Families of Young Children

Dear Families:

We recognize all of the hard work you are doing to prepare your child for returning to childcare, 3-K or pre-K. As you prepare to send your child back, even in a modified way such as blended learning, it is required that your child is up-to-date on their vaccinations.

This document is intended to help you become aware of the steps you need to take to ensure your child is ready for the reopening of their program. This guidance explains the importance of vaccinations for your child. It also provides resources to get your child properly vaccinated so they may attend school. For your child's safety and the safety of others, if your child does not have all the required vaccinations and/or proof of appointments for missing vaccinations, your child may not be able to attend their in-person or remote learning child care program until that is resolved. Programs are required to comply with the New York Public Health Law.

What you need to know

- Immunizations, also known as vaccines or shots, help protect children from serious diseases, including measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, and chickenpox. Children who are not vaccinated can get very sick or even die from these diseases.
- Your child must have the first dose of all required immunizations within 14 calendar days of the first day of in-person or remote learning. Please review the chart of required immunizations on page 4.
- If your child is not up-to-date with their vaccinations, they must be on a catch-up schedule. You will need to schedule and provide proof of additional appointments for the next follow-up dose in each vaccine within 30 calendar days of the first day at the program.
- If your child has recently moved from out of state or a different country, there may be some additional flexibility, if you are having difficulty obtaining your child's medical records.

Accessing Immunizations During COVID-19

There have been fewer children vaccinated during the COVID-19 pandemic than in previous years. COVID-19 has also made it harder for some families to get appointments with doctors putting many children behind on their vaccination schedules. While many medical offices have reopened, there may still be delays in scheduling appointments and some providers may not offer in-person visits yet.

If you are unable to get an appointment with your child's pediatrician or if you do not have a primary care provider for your child, [NYC Health + Hospitals](#) has clinics in all five boroughs. They are available for vaccine appointments for children 0-18 years old at any of their sites, regardless of insurance or your primary care provider. Vaccinations will be recorded and provided to you and your pediatrician. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Note: COVID-19 testing is also available at these sites. You can also call 311 to find information about where you can vaccinate your child.

Immunization Requirements

Some vaccine doses need to be taken at specific time intervals. Your child will still be allowed to attend their program during the waiting period if:

- Your child has received the first dose of each school-required vaccine; and
- You are told by a medical provider to wait for the follow-up doses.

Follow-up doses to complete the immunization series must be in accordance with the [Advisory Committee Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) Catch-Up Schedule](#). You can view the [2020-2021 immunization requirements](#) (available in [multiple languages](#)) on NYCDOE's website, and in English on page 3 of this document. Additionally, you can also refer to the [ACIP Immunization Schedule](#) for more information.

For example, suppose your three year old enrolls in a program and only has one dose of MMR and Varicella. This means your child must obtain one dose of DTaP or DTP, Polio, Hep B, Hib, PCV and Influenza within 14 days after the first day of school and show proof of appointments for all remaining doses of vaccines. There is no alternative schedule allowed. If you do not meet these deadlines, your child may not be able to participate in their program until they are in compliance with the make-up schedule or are fully immunized.

Your child's program will be in communication with you regarding the status of your child's immunizations and due dates. They may provide warning and exclusion letters, if applicable.

Medical Exemption

If your child has a specific health condition such that a vaccine may be harmful, you should have your child's doctor fill out a medical exemption form. The **Medical Exemption Request Process** includes the following:

- The exemption request must be signed by a physician licensed in New York State.
- The form must be on a NYC (preferred) or NYS- approved form (See NYC's Medical Exemption Request for Immunization form [here](#)).

- The form must be filled out completely, including fields the program must complete.

After you submit the form to your child's program, your child may remain in the program during the review process by the DOHMH.

If the exemption request is denied, your child will be given 14 days to receive the required immunizations (or provide other allowed documentation of immunity). Otherwise, they may be excluded from the program.

Additional Resources for Families

- Vaccines are proven to be very safe. Read more about [vaccine safety](#)
- [Tips](#) from the CDC on how to make shots less stressful
- [Additional information](#) about children receiving multiple vaccines at one time (CDC)

Is Your Child Ready for Child Care or School?

Learn about required vaccinations in New York City.

All students ages 2 months to 18 years in New York City must get the following vaccinations to go to child care or school. Review your child's vaccine needs based on their grade level this school year.

VACCINATIONS	Pre-Kindergarten (Child Care, Head Start, Nursery, 3K or Pre-K)	Kindergarten – Grade 5	Grades 6 – 11	Grade 12
	Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP)	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses ONLY if the fourth dose was received at age 4 years or older or 3 doses ONLY if the child is 7 years or older and the series was started at age 1 year or older	3 doses
Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis booster (Tdap)				1 dose (at or after age 11 years)
Polio (IPV or OPV)	3 doses		4 doses or 3 doses if the third dose was received at age 4 years or older	
Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	1 dose		2 doses	
Hepatitis B	3 doses	3 doses		3 doses or 2 doses of adult Hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax HB) if the doses were received at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 and 15 years
Varicella (chickenpox)	1 dose		2 doses	
Meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY)			Grade 6: Not applicable Grades 7 – 11: 1 dose	2 doses or 1 dose ONLY if the first dose was received at age 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type B conjugate (Hib)	1 to 4 doses Depends on child's age and doses previously received			
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)	1 to 4 doses Depends on child's age and doses previously received			
Influenza	1 dose			

The number of vaccine doses your child needs may vary based on age and previous vaccine doses received. Your child may need additional vaccines or vaccine doses if they have certain health conditions. Talk to your health care provider if you have questions. For more information, call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health and search for **student vaccines**.



Department of Health
& Mental Hygiene

Department of
Education



CHILDHOOD VACCINES SAVE LIVES

Getting vaccinated is now easier than ever, at low or no-cost to you!

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important your child doesn't fall behind on their vaccine schedule. Vaccinations are available at NYC Health + Hospitals sites that are located throughout New York City. Special attention has been placed on ensuring that these sites are safe and are following recommendations to decrease your exposure to germs during your visit.

Our health centers are available for vaccine appointments for children and adolescents 0-18 years old at any of our sites, regardless of insurance or assigned primary care provider. Vaccinations will be recorded and made available to you and your pediatrician.

Please call 1-844-NYC-4NYC to speak to one of our representatives about making a vaccine appointment at the location nearest you.

BRONX

NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Belvis
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Morrisania
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln
 NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx

BROOKLYN

NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Bushwick
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Cumberland
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, East New York
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Fort Greene

NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Greenpoint
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Homecrest
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Jonathan Williams
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Williamsburg
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

MANHATTAN

NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Gouverneur
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, St. Nicholas
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Sydenham

NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan

QUEENS

NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Jackson Heights
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Parsons
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Springfield
 NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens

STATEN ISLAND

NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Vanderbilt

