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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccines</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>1 dose (BCG) (Pneumococcal Conjugate)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 to 4 doses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pneumococcal Conjugate</td>
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<td>1 to 4 doses</td>
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<td>Haemophilus Influenzae</td>
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<td>Meningooccal Conjugate</td>
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<td>Varicella (Chickenpox)</td>
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<td>1 dose</td>
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<td>Hepatitis B</td>
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<td>3 doses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mumps, Measles, Rubella (MMR)</td>
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<td>2 doses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Polio (IPV or OPV)</td>
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<td>3 doses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 doses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Boosters)</td>
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</tbody>
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**VACCINATIONS**

**Vaccinations Required for Childcare or School**

*Child's vaccination needs based on their grade level this school year.*

All students ages 2 months to 18 years in New York City must get the following vaccinations to go to childcare or school. Review your child's previous vaccines received. Your child may need additional vaccine or vaccine doses if they have certain health conditions. Talk to your health care provider if you have questions. For more information, call 1-800-MY-GO-HEALTH and search for "student vaccines."
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

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

**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