



DISEASES THAT ARE PREVENTABLE WITH VACCINES

This group of diseases includes measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chickenpox), polio, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, Haemophilus influenza type b, and 7 types of streptococcus pneumoniae, hepatitis B and hepatitis A. Prior to immunization programs, these diseases were a major cause of widespread illness, often with permanent medical complications and even death. Most of these diseases were a problem especially in children, although adults were also affected.

Who gets these diseases?

Some people believe that these diseases are no longer a problem in the United States or that children can't get them anymore. **This is not true!** These diseases are still circulating. Cases of these diseases do occur, particularly in unimmunized or inadequately immunized children and adults. Measles staged a strong comeback in the U.S. in the late eighties and early nineties in unimmunized preschool children and also in high school and college age students. From 1989-1991 there were 123 measles associated deaths reported. Forty-nine percent of these deaths were in children less than 5 years of age. Ninety percent of the fatal cases had no history of vaccination.

Children in childcare settings and their adult caretakers are especially at risk. This is because the children may be too young to be fully immunized and because the close contact that occurs in childcare facility allows easy spread of many diseases.

In this document, each vaccine preventable disease is presented briefly. Although it is unlikely that you will ever see a case of most of these diseases, it is **very important** that you be aware of them and of your vital role in preventing their spread. For further information, please contact your healthcare provider.

How can the spread of these diseases be prevented?

1. All children in daycare must be immunized appropriately for their age, in accordance with the NH State Law: RSA 141:C-20. Specific information about immunization schedules can be found on the Immunization Requirements Section in this handbook and on the appropriate fact sheets.
2. It is recommended that all adults working in a childcare setting, including volunteers, should have proof of immunization or immunity to the following vaccine-preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, varicella, and polio. Although evidence of such immunization or immunity is not required for childcare workers, they are strongly recommended.
3. If a documented case of measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, varicella or pertussis occurs in your childcare facility, you **must** notify the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control.. Their staff will assist you in starting any necessary identification and vaccination of susceptible children and adults. They will also instruct you on procedures for closely watching for any additional cases and for notifying the parents.

Acceptable evidence of immunization or immunity in adults can be provided in several ways, which vary by the age of the adult and the **specific disease**, as listed below:

DISEASES THAT ARE PREVENTABLE WITH VACCINES (cont).

Adult Vaccination Recommendations

Tetanus/diphtheria (Td) or tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) – All adults need a Td booster every 10 years following the completion of the primary 3 dose series. A one-time dose of Tdap is now the vaccine of choice for any adult regardless of age who is due for a Td booster. Anyone who has close contact with infants less than 12 months of age should have the Tdap at least one month prior to contact. It is suggested an interval of 2 years or more since the last dose of Td, as the minimum interval prior to the administration of Tdap.

Measles

Born before 1957 (or) documentation of vaccination with at least two doses of live measles vaccine, with the first dose given on or after the first birthday and the second live dose at least 28 days from the first (or) laboratory evidence of immunity.

Mumps

Documentation of vaccination with live mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday (or) laboratory evidence of immunity (or) documentation of physician-diagnosed mumps is recommended.

Rubella

Documentation of vaccination with rubella vaccine on or after the first birthday (or) laboratory evidence of immunity is recommended. A history of rubella, without laboratory confirmation is **NOT** acceptable.

For women not immune, vaccination during pregnancy is **not** advised. Vaccine should be administered after delivery.

Varicella (Chickenpox)

- Written documentation of age appropriate vaccination,
- Anyone born in the United States before 1996,
- Laboratory evidence of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease for anyone born after 1998.

Hepatitis B

Documentation of 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine given at appropriate intervals (or) laboratory evidence of immunity is recommended.

Influenza

One dose of influenza vaccine is *highly* recommended annually for all childcare workers.