

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR SCHOOLS

Protect your child's health ... and the health of your family and your community!

Infectious diseases like measles, pertussis (whooping cough) and mumps can spread quickly among babies and children who haven't had their shots. These diseases can also spread to your home and community. That's why it is so important to vaccinate all children according to the recommended schedule.

New Hampshire law [RSA 141C:20-a](#) and associated [Administrative Rules He-P 301.13-15](#) require that all children enrolled in any public or private school, pre-school, or child care have certain immunizations to protect them and those around them from vaccine preventable diseases.

Vaccines are safe and effective.

Children who are fully vaccinated by age 2 are protected against 14 preventable diseases. Vaccinated children, in turn, protect others around them. When too many people are not vaccinated, life-threatening diseases like whooping cough can spread throughout a community. Getting immunity from the vaccine is far safer than actually getting the disease. Young children are exposed to many more antigens (what creates an immune response) in 1 day than they are to all the vaccines given before school entry. Vaccines do not cause autism.

How do I get my child's vaccination record?

Your health care provider should have an up-to-date copy of your child's record. They may be able to fax or mail it directly to your school or school nurse. All of your child's vaccines should be recorded by your health care provider, but it is also helpful to keep a copy for your own records.

If you have some, but not all, of your child's vaccination record, your child may be enrolled in school as long as there is a record of at least one dose of each required vaccine. However, you will need to get the remaining records or make an appointment with your doctor to complete your child's vaccinations.

If you opted in, you can request your child's immunization records from the NH Immunization Information System (NHIS) here: [NHIS Information for the Public | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services](#)

You may also correct your NHIS record if it is incomplete or inaccurate, either through your child's doctor or by completing a correction form found on the above webpage.

When will I have to give records to my School?

You will have to give immunization records before enrollment and whenever your school requests it. You should provide updated records to your school whenever your child receives additional vaccines.

What if my child cannot be vaccinated?

If your child cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons, your child may be exempt from receiving that vaccine. To receive a medical exemption, you must get a signed note from your child's doctor that certifies that a particular immunization may be detrimental to your child's health.

A religious exemption can be granted if your religion prohibits immunizations. You will need to sign a form stating that your child has not been immunized because of religious beliefs. The signed form needs to be submitted to your school. The New Hampshire Childcare/School Immunization Religious Exemption Form must be used for submission to your school administrator or school health official and can be found here: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disease-prevention/immunizations/immunization-exemptions-children>.

Please be aware that children with a medical or religious exemption may not be allowed to attend school during a disease outbreak.

NH law does not allow philosophical exemptions from required school and child care vaccines.

Is there a recommended schedule for children’s vaccination?

Yes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) develops a recommended vaccination schedule for children. Following this standard schedule gives your child the best protection at the most appropriate time. Delaying vaccines or following a different schedule is not safe because it puts your child and the people around him/her at unnecessary risk of disease. You can find the current schedules on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html>

Ask your doctor to help you keep track of your child’s vaccinations.

Which immunizations are required for entry into preschool and school?

	Child should have received at least:
Pre-K/Preschool	4 doses of DTaP 3 doses of Polio and HepB. 3-4 doses of Hib* (depending on brand, age at administration, spacing) 1 dose of Varicella and MMR.
Kindergarten	Hib: Not required for children age 5 and older* 4-5 doses of DTaP** 3-4 doses of Polio** 3 doses of HepB 2 doses of Varicella and MMR.
7th Grade	In addition to requirements for school enrollment, 1 dose of Tdap is required for entry into 7 th grade.

* FOR PRESCHOOLS: Some children who start the Hib vaccine series late may need fewer than 4 doses; Hib is not required for unvaccinated children over age 5 (call NHIP if questions).

** For Kindergarten:

4-5 doses of DTaP with the last dose on or after the 4th birthday.

3-4 doses of Polio with the last dose on or after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.

2 doses each of Varicella and MMR (with the first dose given on or after 12 months of age).

Where can I get more information, forms, resources, and materials?

Go to the NH Immunization Program (NHIP) website:

[Immunization Guidance for Schools | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services \(nh.gov\)](#)

You may also contact the NHIP at 603-271-4482.

