

# Child Care Immunization Record - Instructions

Immunization information must be on file before a child attends child care.

## Who should complete and sign this form?

Who signs depends on the child's age and situation: Either the parent/guardian, physician/clinic, or child care provider can fill in the child's immunization history.

- If the child is at least 15 months old and has had all the shots required by law, a parent or guardian can sign the form in Section A.
- If the child is younger than 15 months or has not had all the shots required by law, a doctor or representative from a public health clinic must sign in Section B.
- If there are medical reasons why a child can't have or doesn't need any shot(s), a doctor or a public health nurse must sign in Section B.
- If a parent or guardian objects to a certain shot, a doctor or representative from a public health clinic must sign the form in Section B, and the parent or guardian must complete Section C and have it notarized by a notary public.
- If a parent or guardian objects to all shots, they must complete Section C and have it notarized by a notary public.

## Notes for Parents

1. **Give your child's immunization history to the child care provider when you enroll.**

By law, licensed child care providers must keep a form like this one on file for each child. A child care provider can refuse to admit a child who has not received the required shots. The only exceptions are if your child has a medical reason for not receiving a shot or you are conscientiously opposed to immunization.

2. **Keep track of your child's shots, and tell your child care provider each time your child gets a shot.**

It will save you time if you keep a shot record for each of your children. Be sure to have the record updated each time your child receives a shot.

Child care will be the first of many times you will need the shot record. You will also need this record for school, camp, college, and if you go to a new doctor or clinic.

3. **If your child is not up to date on his or her shots, you can catch up.**

By law you have 18 months after enrolling for your child to have all his or her required shots.

Minnesota children are still getting diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella. These diseases are contagious. They can spread rapidly—especially among groups of children who have not received their shots. And some of them, like pertussis (whooping cough), are much more serious for children than they are for adults. As a parent, you can protect your children by making sure they get all their shots. Most shots are due by 2 years of age.

4. **If your child has had the chickenpox, he or she does not need a varicella shot.**

## Notes for Child Care Providers

1. **Be sure you have a complete immunization history on file for all children 2 months of age and older.**

This specific form, or an MDH-approved form, is required by law. If you run a licensed child care facility in Minnesota you must have the information this form contains on file before a child enrolls. If a child enrolls at a younger age, you must obtain immunization information when they reach 2 months of age.

2. **Keep track of the date when each child's required immunizations are due by law.**

If a child is 2 months of age or older and has not yet received all their required shots, you should note the date when these immunizations will be due by law: 18 months after the child enrolls in your facility.

Unless otherwise exempt, Minnesota law requires preschoolers in child care to have shots for DTP, polio, MMR, varicella, PCV, and Hib. Immunization against hepatitis B is not required by law; however, it is strongly recommended for children in child care and is required for kindergarten entry. If the child has had chickenpox disease, he or she does not need a varicella shot.

3. **Be sure each child's immunization history clearly indicates whether or not they received pertussis vaccine.** (DTaP and DTP contain pertussis vaccine; DT does not.)

Nationwide there has been an increase in pertussis disease (whooping cough). If an outbreak of pertussis disease occurs in your child care center, you will need to be able to quickly identify which children are protected and which are not.

4. **Remind parents to immunize children on time.**

As a child care provider, you are in an excellent position to help remind parents about immunizations.

Make sure the immunization records you have on file for each child are up to date, and regularly remind parents when shots are due.

Ask your local health department for an updated immunization schedule each calendar year, so you will have the latest information on hand.

## Questions?

If you have a question about immunizations, call your clinic or your local public health department.