

Are Your Kids Ready?

Minnesota's Immunization Law

Immunization Requirements

The following immunizations are required beginning Sept. 1, 2014.

To enter into child care, early childhood programs, and elementary or secondary schools (public or private), children need to have certain immunizations. Use this chart as a quick reference to determine which vaccines are required for enrollment. See below for exemption information.

Birth through 4 years Early childhood programs & Child care	Age: 5 through 6 years ² For Kindergarten	Age: 7 through 11 years For 1st through 6 th grade	Age: 12 years and older For 7 th through 12 th grade
Hepatitis A			
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B 3 doses	Hepatitis B 3 doses	Hepatitis B ³ 3 doses
DTaP/DT	DTaP 5 doses <small>5th shot not needed if 4th was after age 4 Final dose on or after age 4 years</small>	At least 3 tetanus and diphtheria containing doses	Tdap ⁴ At age 11-12 years
Polio	Polio 4 doses <small>4th polio not needed if 3rd was after age 4 Final dose on or after age 4 years</small>	Polio At least 3 doses	Polio At least 3 doses
MMR	MMR 2 doses	MMR 2 doses	MMR 2 doses
Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b			Meningococcal ⁵ At age 11-12 years
Pneumococcal At age 2-24 months			
Varicella ¹	Varicella ¹ 2 doses	Varicella ¹ 2 doses	Varicella ¹ 2 doses

Immunizations recommended but not required by the Immunization Law:

Influenza

Recommended annually for all children age 6 months and older

Rotavirus

Recommended for infants

Human papillomavirus

Recommended at age 11 years

¹ If the child has already had chickenpox disease, varicella shots are not required. If the disease occurred after 2010, the child's doctor must sign a form.

² First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and DTaP/DT schedules for kindergarten.

³ An alternate 2-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids from age 11 through 15 years.

⁴ Proof of at least three doses of diphtheria and tetanus vaccination needed. If a child received Tdap at age 7-10 years another dose is not needed at age 11-12 years. However, if it was only a Td, a Tdap dose at age 11-12 years is needed.

⁵ A booster dose is required at age 16 years or three years later if the first dose was given between age 13-15 years.

Exemptions

To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they've had these immunizations or file a legal exemption with the school.

Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

Looking for Vaccination Records?

For copies of your child's vaccination records, talk to your doctor or call the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) at 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them

Vaccines required to enter into child care, early childhood programs, and elementary or secondary schools (public or private).

Vaccine/Disease	Disease spread by	Disease symptoms	Disease complications
DTaP or Tdap vaccine protects against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus	Diphtheria: Air, direct contact Pertussis: Air, direct contact Tetanus: Exposure through cuts in skin	Diphtheria: Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands in neck Pertussis: Severe cough, runny nose, apnea (a pause in breathing in infants) Tetanus: Stiffness in neck and abdominal muscles, difficulty swallowing, muscle spasms, fever	Diphtheria: Swelling of the heart muscle, heart failure, coma, paralysis, death Pertussis: Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), brain damage, death Tetanus: Broken bones, breathing difficulty, severe muscle spasms, death,
Hib vaccine protects against <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Direct contact, air	May be no symptoms unless bacteria enters the blood; generalized weakness and fever, stiff neck, confusion, irritability, local infections, joint pain	Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), shock due to blood infection, swelling of the throat that can lead to serious breathing problems, hearing loss, pneumonia, bone and heart infections, death
Hep A vaccine protects against hepatitis A	Direct contact, contaminated food or water	Fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), joint pain, dark urine or no symptoms	Liver failure
Hep B vaccine protects against hepatitis B	Contact with blood or body fluids	Fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, jaundice, joint pain, or no symptoms	Chronic liver infection, cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer
MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and rubella	Air, direct contact	Measles: High fever, cough, runny nose, red watery eyes, rash Mumps: Swollen salivary glands (under the jaw), testicle or ovary swelling, fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain Rubella: Rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes	Measles: Brain swelling, seizures, ear infection, pneumonia, death Mumps: Meningitis, brain swelling, deafness, sterility Rubella: Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects
MCV vaccine protects against meningococcal	Air, direct contact	Severe headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, bruising rash, confusion, extreme sleepiness	Blood infections, amputation, deafness, nervous system problems, developmental disabilities, seizures, death
PCV vaccine protects against pneumococcal	Air, direct contact	Fever, cough or difficulty breathing, weakness, severe headache or irritability, or no symptoms	Blood infections, meningitis, pneumonia, death
Polio vaccine protects against polio	Direct contact, through the mouth, air	Sore throat, fever, nausea, headache, leg weakness, or no symptoms	Paralysis, chronic muscle weakness, death
Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox	Air, direct contact	Itchy rash, fever, tiredness, headache	Skin infection, bleeding disorders, brain swelling, pneumonia

Vaccines recommended but not required by the Immunization Law

Vaccine/Disease	Disease spread by	Disease symptoms	Disease complications
HPV vaccine protects against human papillomavirus	Sex, intimate contact	Warts on genitals, or no symptoms	Cervical, vaginal, or vulvar cancer in females; penile cancer in males; anal or oral cancer and genital warts in males and females. Chronic infections requiring ongoing treatment.
Flu vaccine protects against influenza	Air, direct contact	Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue	Pneumonia, Guillain-Barré syndrome, death
Rotavirus vaccine protects against rotavirus	Through the mouth	Diarrhea, fever, vomiting	Dehydration, collapse