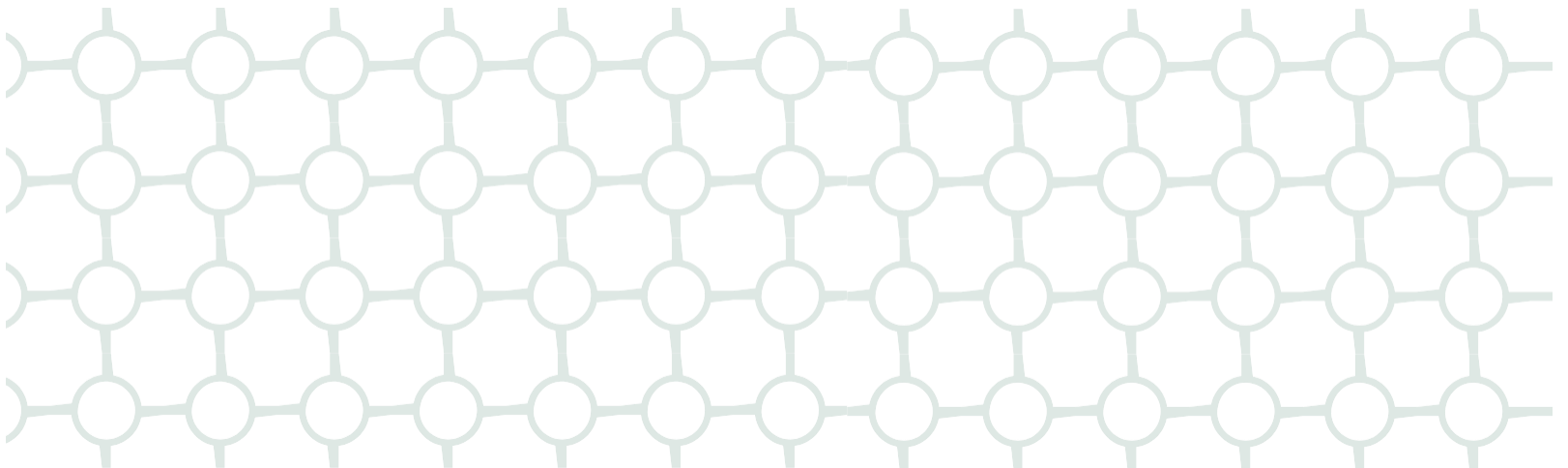




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## Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force

The Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force; made up of local health care providers, health departments, schools, and hospitals; coordinated by Munson Healthcare is dedicated to improving the overall health of our communities by informing, educating and supporting policy changes that reverse our region's ongoing trend of very low vaccination rates.

Chair, Christina Nowak, MPH, MBA

Co-Chair, Dr. Jill E. Vollbrecht, MD

Dear Child Care Provider:

Every day, you are charged with the safety of the precious children under your care. You protect them from the dangers that may threaten them, from busy streets to dangers in their environment and unpredictable weather.

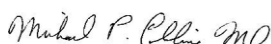
One often overlooked danger is the risk of contagious diseases, such as whooping cough or measles. The children in your care can infect each other with these dangerous illnesses. Thankfully, this risk can be greatly reduced if all the children and staff are fully immunized.

We are reaching out to you as part of the Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force. Together with representatives from Munson Healthcare, regional health departments, and community stakeholders, we have created this Immunization Toolkit for Child Care Providers. This resource can help you encourage vaccination – and reduce the health risks to the children in your care.

This toolkit is a valuable resource to help you educate parents about the risks of having an unvaccinated child. Additionally, this toolkit can help you adopt a vaccination policy for your daycare and document which of the children in your care may be at risk for contracting various contagious diseases.

Thank you for caring for our community's children, our most important asset. We applaud your efforts to keep children safe and hope this toolkit will be helpful in your mission. If you have any questions, please contact your local health department.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Collins  
Medical Director  
Grand Traverse County  
Health Department



Dr. Joshua Meyerson  
Medical Director  
Benzie-Leelanau District  
Health Department and  
Health Department of  
Northwest Michigan



Dr. Jennifer Morse  
Medical Director  
District Health  
Department #10

# Child Care Legal Rights and Support

## Revised Waiver Rules

In 2014, the State of Michigan revised requirements for vaccination compliance and non-medical waivers for students attending public schools and day care centers. Parents/guardians are required to obtain a non-medical waiver form from their local health department if they choose to opt out of receiving vaccines for philosophical and/or religious reasons. Families also may receive a medical contraindication form (medical waiver) through their doctor for a medical reason such as the child is allergic to a component of the vaccine through their doctor.

Child care centers must obtain a signed non-medical waiver form or a medical contraindication form (medical waiver) from families prior to enrollment in the center. You have the right and authority to not permit a child into your program until one of these forms is completed and submitted, or the child has received the vaccines. If you are a private child care provider (home or center-based), you can implement a vaccination policy that requires children in your care to be fully vaccinated or have a non-medical waiver form or a medical contraindication form (medical waiver) on file.

If a child is not up-to-date on vaccines you should help the family have their child vaccinated. See the list of community resources in this packet that offer vaccines. If you so choose, you have a right to exclude a child from childcare until they are compliant by becoming immunized or obtaining one of the two waiver forms.

## What to Do During an Outbreak

You care about the safety of all the children in your care. You feed them, change them, play with them, and cuddle them. But during an outbreak, you also need to protect them from catching a vaccine preventable disease. Any child who has a waiver should not attend day care during an outbreak of a communicable disease. You have the option to also ask students who are too young to receive protective vaccines (i.e. whooping cough or chicken pox) to not attend school during an outbreak. These students do not have the protective antibodies that help their bodies fight off such diseases.

When a parent or guardian signs a waiver, they are acknowledging they understand their child(ren) may be asked to not attend school or day care during a vaccine preventable outbreak. You have the legal right to ask the family not to bring the child to day care for their child's safety. You are not at risk for legal action by doing this if the parent has signed a waiver. You should work with the family and local health department to determine when a child can return based on the illness.

## Support with Waivers and Exclusions

Your local health department is an expert source of information about waivers and exclusions. The staff can help you understand immunization reporting requirements, waivers, and how to handle an outbreak. See pages 15-16 for a complete list of health departments by county.

## Guidelines for Disease Reporting and Exclusion/Readmission to Child Care

Schools and child care centers can play a major role in helping to reduce or prevent the incidence of illness among children and adults in our communities. Encouraging good hand hygiene and following cleaning recommendations contribute to a safe and healthy learning environment for children. Vaccinating staff helps protect children also. When child care centers report illness to their local health department, public health specialists can assist them with disease prevention and control guidance. This document provides child care centers with general information on steps they can take to prevent and control communicable diseases.

### Child Care Centers Must Report Some Diseases to the Health Department

Michigan law requires schools and licensed childcare centers to report specific diseases, according to Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978. The law states that physicians, laboratories, primary and secondary schools, child day cares, and camps are required to report the occurrence or suspected occurrence of any disease, condition, or infections as identified in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Disease rules to your local health department within 24 hours.

Diseases you are required to report to the local health department include:

- Any disease that is unusual
- Any outbreaks of a disease (e.g. several children with vomiting/diarrhea)
- Chickenpox
- E. Coli
- Hepatitis
- HIV
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Mumps
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Salmonella
- Shigella
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis

It is always better to contact the health department if you are unsure if a disease should be reported.

For a complete list of reportable diseases, go to:

**[michigan.gov/documents/Reportable\\_Disease\\_Chart\\_2005\\_122678\\_7.pdf](https://michigan.gov/documents/Reportable_Disease_Chart_2005_122678_7.pdf)**

### Michigan Law Regarding Exclusion of Children NOT Vaccinated or Up to Date on Vaccines

Michigan law states that when school officials, local health department staff, or personnel reasonably suspect that a student has a communicable condition, they may exclude the student for a period of time sufficient to obtain a determination by a physician or health official as to the presence of the condition. Children who have incomplete immunizations may be excluded from a school or child care center if a vaccine preventable disease is either confirmed or suspected. A child may return when it is determined that he or she no longer represents a communicable disease risk to others. (MCL 325.175(5)).

Note: There are provisions in the public health code relating to the non-exclusion of those with HIV infections or AIDS. Check with your local health department or legal counsel if you need more information. For information about HIV privacy issues, see MCL 333.5131(5)(c).

### Criteria for Excluding Children from Child Care

As a general guideline, children with fever (temperature of 100.4°F or greater), vomiting, severe diarrhea, or those too sick to have meaningful interaction with others should be excluded from childcare. The table below provides guidance for some of the most common childhood illnesses. **If you have any questions about whether or not to exclude a child, contact your local health department.**

Disease	Exclusion
<b>Chickenpox</b> (Varicella)*	Exclude until lesions are dry and crusted. Children who have been in contact with a person who has chickenpox and are not immune to the disease (had the disease or had 2 doses of varicella vaccine), should be excluded for 21 days.
<b>Cold Sores</b>	Exclusion not required. For more information on this disease go to: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/">https://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/</a> or call your local health department.
<b>Conjunctivitis</b> (Pink Eye)	Exclude until 24 hours of treatment or until symptoms resolve. Allergic conjunctivitis and viral conjunctivitis do not require exclusion.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Exclude when diarrhea cannot be contained or in the presence of a fever.
<b>Salmonella*</b>	Exclude until permission from the health department or a health care professional.
<b>Shigella*</b>	Exclude until permission from the health department or a health care professional.
<b>Fifth Disease</b> (Erythema Infectiosum)	Exclusion not required. For more information on this disease go to: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/">https://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/</a> or call your local health department.
<b>Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease</b>	Exclusion not required. For more information on this disease go to: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/">https://www.cdc.gov/diseasesconditions/</a> or call your local health department.
<b>Hepatitis A*</b>	Exclude until approved by a health care professional.
<b>Impetigo</b>	Exclude until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment.
<b>Infl</b> (Respiratory Flu)	Exclude until 24 hours after fever has resolved.
<b>Lice</b>	Exclude at end of the day. May return after treatment.
<b>Pertussis</b> (Whooping Cough)*	Exclude until completion of 5 days of treatment or 21 days after onset if no treatment is prescribed.
<b>Ringworm</b>	Exclusion not required (should be treated).
<b>Scabies</b>	Exclude until treatment completed.
<b>Staph skin infection</b> (including MRSA)	Exclusion not required. Lesions should be covered with clothing or bandages.
<b>Strept Throat or Scarlet Fever</b>	Exclude until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment.
<b>Tuberculosis*</b>	Exclusion until permission from the health department.
<b>Upper Respiratory Infection</b>	Exclude until fever is gone.

\* Report to local health department. For more information, contact your local health department.

# Summary of Immunization Rules/Regulations in Michigan Bureau of Child and Adult Licensing

## Licensed Child Care Centers

Licensed child care centers keep records of children's immunizations and are required to report to local health departments using forms available on the Michigan Care Improvement Registry website:

**[mcir.org/school-childcare/reporting-immunization-program-status-to-the-health-department](http://mcir.org/school-childcare/reporting-immunization-program-status-to-the-health-department).**

Center-based child care workers and volunteers only need to be shown free from tuberculosis. Records of the immunization status of children in care are required. For more information, see pages 11 and 14 in this document at **[michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Child\\_Care\\_Center\\_Rules\\_419095\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/dhs/Child_Care_Center_Rules_419095_7.pdf)**

## Licensed Home-Based Child Care

Licensed home-based child care providers are required to have a Child In-Care Statement/Receipt on file indicating the immunization status of each of the children in their care. Licensed home-based care providers are also required to disclose the immunization status of any children living in the home. Adult caregivers and anyone residing in the home who is 14-years or older are only required to have tested negative for tuberculosis (TB). The Child In-Care Statement/Receipt form can be found at **[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/BCAL-3900\\_8\\_15\\_fi](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/BCAL-3900_8_15_fi)**

## Unlicensed Caregivers

The health requirements for unlicensed caregivers, defined as caregivers who are related to the children in their care by blood or marriage, are exempt from state oversight. Unlicensed caregivers who register with the state and meet the proper criteria are eligible to receive a subsidy from Child Development and Care (CDC) through the Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please review the Required Documents/Verification for Unlicensed Providers at **[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/unlicensed\\_provider\\_checklist\\_494427\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/unlicensed_provider_checklist_494427_7.pdf)**

## The Child Information Record

Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs provides official forms and samples for child care homes and centers. The Child Information Record at **[michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara\\_BCAL\\_3731\\_Child\\_Information\\_Record\\_062315\\_492679\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_BCAL_3731_Child_Information_Record_062315_492679_7.pdf)** contains information about a child's physician and preferred hospital, but does not include vaccination status, nor does it refer to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, or that providers may be required to report children's immunizations records to local health departments.



# Michigan Care Improvement Registry for Child Care Providers

## Overview

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry was established by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to record information about immunizations. Each child care provider creates a roster listing the children who attend their care center and the child's immunization status. An annual roster should be built by October 1. The roster should not include children who are also enrolled in school (kindergarteners and older).

Ninety percent of the children on your roster must be fully immunized related to their age (complete), be in the waiting period before the next immunization is due (provisional), or have a certified waiver.

## Immunization Status Key

- Incomplete (I) - Currently needs immunizations
- Provisional (P) - Currently complete but will be incomplete soon
- Waivered (W) - Waiver on file for immunizations
- Complete (C) - Up to date on required immunizations
- No Evaluation (Ø) - Child is too old or young for the site

## First Steps

- You must have a Michigan Care Improvement Registry ID to build a roster. Generally, the person building the roster is called the site administrator. Do not use someone else's ID to build your roster.
- If you are a current or new site administrator:
  - Go to [mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/SCC\\_Request\\_to\\_Change\\_SA1.pdf](https://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/SCC_Request_to_Change_SA1.pdf)
  - Follow the instructions on the form
  - Fax, scan, or email the form per the directions
- Only the site administrator has the authority to add new users or delete users who no longer work at the facility. Directions to add and delete users can be found at:  
[mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Add\\_Delete-Site-Users.pdf](https://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Add_Delete-Site-Users.pdf).

## Building the Roster

- There are several ways to build a roster. Pages 8 through 13 of the Michigan Care Improvement Registry Schools and Child Care Manual discuss each one at: [mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SCC-Manual.pdf](https://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SCC-Manual.pdf)
- One-on-one education on building a roster is available through the Grand Traverse County Health Department by contacting the immunization coordinator.
- For children who are unable to be found in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry or come from a different state and have no MCIR record, contact the health department for guidance.

### Using the Roster

- After the roster is built, it can be:
- Sorted [mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Roster\\_Basics.pdf](http://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Roster_Basics.pdf)
- Modified [mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/How\\_to\\_Modify\\_The\\_Roster1.pdf](http://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/How_to_Modify_The_Roster1.pdf)
- Edited [mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Editing-Individual-Records.pdf](http://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Editing-Individual-Records.pdf)

Please call your local health department with specific questions.

### Using the Roster as a Continual Assessment Tool

- After the reporting period, children can still be added and deleted from your Michigan Care Improvement Registry roster. This may be a helpful tool to continue to assess the entire child care immunization status.
- The registry can be used to generate several types of reports that may be useful, such as parental letters to let the family know when the child is due for immunizations.

See the [mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SCC Manual.pdf](http://mcir.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SCC_Manual.pdf) beginning on page 17.



## Sample Parent Letters

To help you communicate with parents about your requirements for immunizations, feel free to use the sample letters that follow. You may use the letters as they are or customize to your specific requirements. Clear communication about the importance of immunization and your requirements of your facility will help ensure compliance and protect the children in your care.

### For Home-based Providers

Dear *[insert Parent/s]*:

Your child's health and well-being is very important to me. As part of my commitment to ensuring that *[insert child's name]* receives the highest quality care and education, I require that all children in my care be up to date on physician-recommended immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases – unless a child cannot be immunized for medical reasons.

Each year, I will ask you to complete an immunization record. As a licensed child care provider, I am required by law to report this information to our local health department through the Michigan Care Improvement Registry. In case of an outbreak, this helps the health department respond more quickly to the community to prevent the spread of disease.

Your physician will advise you about the best way to protect your child. You also can contact *[insert name of]* Health Department *[insert phone number/website]* to talk to a public health nurse and/or to schedule immunization appointments. Depending on your medical insurance, immunizations may be free or you may be able to receive them at a reduced cost through the health department.

Many wonderful experiences are ahead for your child as *[insert she/he]* grows, makes new friends, and learns about the world. As a professional child care provider, my goal is to create a safe and enriching environment where your child will thrive and enjoy being a child. I am looking forward to the time I will be sharing with your child and partnering with you to ensure *[insert child's name]* is prepared for success.

## Sample Parent Letters

### For Center-based Providers

Dear *[insert Parent/s]*:

Your child's health and well-being is very important to me. As part of my commitment to ensuring that *[insert child's name]* receives the highest quality care and education, I require that all children in my care be up to date on physician-recommended immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases – unless a child cannot be immunized for medical reasons.

Each year, I will ask you to complete an immunization record. As a licensed child care provider, I am required by law to report this information to our local health department through the Michigan Care Improvement Registry. In case of an outbreak, this helps the health department respond more quickly to the community to prevent the spread of disease.

Your physician will advise you about the best way to protect your child. You also can contact *[insert name of]* Health Department *[insert phone number/website]* to talk to a public health nurse and/or to schedule immunization appointments. Depending on your medical insurance, immunizations may be free or you may be able to receive them at a reduced cost through the health department.

Many wonderful experiences are ahead for your child as *[insert she/he]* grows, makes new friends, and learns about the world. As a professional child care provider, my goal is to create a safe and enriching environment where your child will thrive and enjoy being a child. I am looking forward to the time I will be sharing with your child and partnering with you to ensure *[insert child's name]* is prepared for success.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Various organizations offer excellent resources for parents and family members regarding the importance and safety of immunizations.

Following is an excellent FAQ regarding vaccine safety from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which may be useful for you in addressing questions and concerns from your clients. You can find the most current information from AAP online at [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org).

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

### AAP Immunizations Frequently Asked Questions: Vaccine Safety

As a parent, you might have questions and concerns about vaccine safety. With so much incorrect information on the Internet and in the media, it is often hard to find trustworthy, clear, and up-to-date information. The truth is that today's vaccines are the most effective and safest in history and have protected and saved millions of lives from vaccine-preventable diseases. However, some children are too young or too sick to receive vaccines. And some children do have side effects. Listed below are common questions about vaccine safety and the AAP's response.

#### How are vaccines licensed and monitored to ensure their safety?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tests new vaccines for up to 10 years before issuing the vaccine a license. All vaccines must be safe and proven to work well in children. Once the vaccine is being used, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) monitor it through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Researchers look for any problem with a vaccine, inspect the problem, and decide what to do. When VAERS found a problem in the past, changes included:

- Using different labels or packaging,
- Sending safety alerts,
- Inspecting manufacturers' records, and
- Taking away the vaccine's license.

For more information about VAERS, visit <http://vaers.hhs.gov/index> or call the toll-free VAERS information line at 1-800-822-7967. For more information about licensing vaccines, visit [http://www.aap.org/immunization/families/VaccineSafety\\_parenthandout.pdf](http://www.aap.org/immunization/families/VaccineSafety_parenthandout.pdf)

The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) is a collaborative effort between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 9 managed care organizations (MCOs) in the United States. The VSD began in 1990 to monitor immunization safety. Each participating VSD site gathers data on vaccination (vaccine type, date of vaccination, vaccines given with other vaccines), medical outcomes (outpatient visits, inpatient visits, urgent care visits), birth data, and census data.

For more information about VSD visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/activities/vsd.html>.

#### What are the known side effects of vaccines?

Vaccines can sometimes cause certain side effects. The most common side effects include fever, redness or soreness where the shot was given, or fussiness of your child.

Sometimes more serious reactions occur, but they are very rare. It is important to talk to your pediatrician to identify possible side effects to watch for and how to contact him in case you observe something you are concerned about.

For more information about possible side effects from specific vaccines, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/side-effects.htm>



## Frequently Asked Questions

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



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### AAP Immunizations Frequently Asked Questions: Vaccine Safety

#### Why do children get so many shots? Is it safe to give multiple shots in one visit?

Vaccines are the best way to prevent diseases. Children are given vaccines at a young age because this is when they are most likely to get the disease. If a child is not vaccinated and is exposed to a disease, the child's body may not be strong enough to fight the disease.

The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend vaccination against 16 diseases (including influenza). To be most effective, some of these vaccines need to be given more than once. As a result, children may receive up to 27 vaccines by the time they are 2 years old and may be given up to 6 vaccines during one visit to the doctor. Talk to your pediatrician about combination vaccines that are available to reduce the number of needle sticks your child will receive.

In a study published in the June 2010 issue of *Pediatrics*, M.J. Smith et al. examined a group of 1,047 children some of whom had gotten all of their shots on time, and others whom had gotten some shots late or missed some shots altogether. Then at 7-10 years old, children were studied for harmful effects, such as tics, poor memory, stuttering, and slowed response. Researchers found no evidence that getting all of the vaccines on time, during infancy, is associated with any unwanted effects.

Studies and years of experience show that vaccines used for routine childhood immunizations can be given together safely, at one visit. The vaccines work just as well, and this does not increase the risk of side effects. In addition, the scientific data show that receiving multiple vaccines has no harmful effect on a healthy child's immune system. Talk to your pediatrician if you are concerned about the number of vaccines your child is scheduled to receive.

For more information on the childhood vaccine schedule and why it is recommended, visit <http://www.aap.org/immunization/families/toomany.html>

#### I had chickenpox as a kid and was fine, why does my child need this vaccine?

Many parents remember getting chickenpox (varicella) because it is a common childhood disease. Although this disease is common, parents should keep in mind how uncomfortable and potentially severe this disease can be for their child. Before the vaccine, there were 100 deaths and 12,000 hospitalizations per year in the United States. In addition to the uncomfortable rash, fever, itchiness, and tiredness that the disease causes, your child could also suffer severe side effects from the disease such as skin infection, pneumonia, and brain damage. The chickenpox vaccine can protect your child from the potential severity of this disease. Talk to your pediatrician about when your child should be vaccinated.

#### Does the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccines cause autism?

No. Scientific data do not show a link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Children receive the MMR vaccine at 12-15 months. Signs of autism often appear when a child is 15-18 months. Because children get the MMR vaccine just before the signs of autism appear, some people were concerned about a link.

In 1998, Andrew Wakefield published a small study in *The Lancet* stating that MMR caused inflammatory bowel disease and autism. Later, his results were rejected because the study was seriously flawed. Ten out of the 13 co-authors agreed that the results were wrong and retracted their support. In February 2010, the editors of *The Lancet* retracted the paper and the United Kingdom's General Medical Council took away Wakefield's license. As a result of the study and its misleading results, many British parents refused to let their children get the vaccine and the number of measles and mumps outbreaks increased in areas where many children had not been vaccinated. Subsequent studies and a 2004 Institute of Medicine report have all concluded that there is no association between the MMR vaccine and autism.

## Frequently Asked Questions

American Academy  
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### AAP Immunizations Frequently Asked Questions: Vaccine Safety

Some parents still question vaccine safety because the media gives false claims a lot of attention, and the Internet has wrong information that is easy to find. Measles, mumps, and rubella are serious - protect your children by immunizing them when they are 12-15 months old and again at 4-6 years old.

#### A lot of people get the flu each season, it's not that serious, right?

It is true that a lot of people get the flu (influenza) each season. Every year in the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population will get the flu. Despite how common it is, influenza is a serious disease and every year about 36,000 people die and 200,000 people end up in the hospital because of it. Young children are at high risk for serious flu complications such as bacterial pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and dehydration. It is recommended that your child be vaccinated yearly starting at 6 months of age.

#### What is the mercury containing ingredient thimerosal? Is it safe?

Thimerosal is a preservative used in some vaccines, medicines, and other products such as contact lens solutions, throat, and nose sprays. In vaccines, thimerosal stops bacteria and fungi from growing in open multi-dose vaccine containers. Thimerosal has a small amount of organic mercury in it. Some parents and others worry about a link between neurologic disorders and vaccines that use thimerosal. Reliable scientific studies have not shown that small amounts of thimerosal in vaccines cause harm. Minor side effects like swelling and redness where the vaccine was given are the same for thimerosal containing vaccines and non-thimerosal containing vaccines.

It is important to understand that mercury is a natural part of our environment and is found in the fish we eat, the water we drink, and in infant formula and breast milk, among other items. There is no evidence that thimerosal in vaccines is harmful. In 1999, the Public Health Service and the AAP recommended that thimerosal be taken out of vaccines administered in the United States as a precaution. We can't always remove the mercury from the environment, but we can control the mercury used in vaccines. By taking thimerosal out of vaccines, we lessen the amount of mercury a child will be exposed to early in life. Since 2001, all routinely recommended children's vaccines being made in the United States (except some influenza and Td vaccines) contain no thimerosal or only trace amounts.

**Note:** Many childhood vaccines never used thimerosal: measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), polio (IPV), varicella/chicken pox, some *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccines, and some diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (DTaP) vaccines. Some vaccines are only available with thimerosal, such as meningococcal vaccine, but this vaccine is NOT recommended for very young children.

#### I'm not sure the hepatitis B vaccine is necessary for my baby. Why is it important?

The hepatitis B vaccine is important for all babies. This vaccine protects your baby from the serious hepatitis B virus. The virus can enter the bloodstream, attack the liver, and sometimes cause serious damage or even liver cancer. The younger a child is when exposed, the more likely that child will suffer from liver damage or liver cancer; 90% of infected infants will develop a serious, life-long infection. Vaccinating at birth (birth dose) ensures that your baby will be protected at the beginning of her life from any exposure to the hepatitis B virus.



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### AAP Immunizations Frequently Asked Questions: Vaccine Safety

Even if the mother and the baby are both negative for hepatitis B at birth, it is important to get the vaccine. Since individuals that are infected with hepatitis B often do not feel sick or show symptoms of the disease, they can pass the virus on unknowingly. If your baby is not protected by the vaccine, he could be at risk for contracting the virus. In two-thirds of the cases of childhood transmission of the virus, the mother tested negative for hepatitis B but the unvaccinated infant was exposed from a family member or caregiver.

Talk to your pediatrician about the recommended schedule for the hepatitis B vaccine to guarantee all 3 doses are completed.

For more information about hepatitis B disease, hepatitis B birth dose, or the Vaccine Information Statement on hepatitis B vaccine, visit: <http://www2.aap.org/immunization/illnesses/hepb/hepb.html> or <http://www.immunize.org/birthdose/>.

**“Even if I choose not to vaccinate my child, my baby will be protected because other children are vaccinated.”**

The concept that your child will be protected from a vaccine-preventable disease because other children are vaccinated is known as ‘herd immunity.’ Herd immunity refers to the type of immunity that occurs when the vaccinated portion of the population provides protection against a disease to the unvaccinated individuals.

Those who are too young or too sick to be vaccinated depend on ‘the herd’ to keep disease away from them. However, relying on herd immunity to keep your child safe is risky. The more parents that follow this way of thinking, the fewer vaccinated children we will have, and the more likely a serious disease will return and infect all of those who are unvaccinated.

**Vaccines save lives and protect against the spread of disease. If you decide not to immunize your child, you put your child and other children around her at risk. Getting vaccinated is much safer than getting the disease. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/>.**



The information contained in this document should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

Last updated: 6/2013



## Additional Resources

The Immunization Action Council developed the following one-page handout of resources that may be helpful to you and may be shared with parents. More information and resources are available on their website at [vaccineinformation.org](http://vaccineinformation.org).

### Reliable Sources of Immunization Information: Where to go to find answers!

#### Websites

**American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

[www.aap.org/immunization](http://www.aap.org/immunization) AAP's childhood immunization website contains information for both parents and clinicians.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) The information on this website ranges from official vaccine recommendations for healthcare professionals to information for the general public about vaccines.

**Every Child by Two (ECBT)** [www.ecbt.org](http://www.ecbt.org) and [www.vaccinateyourbaby.org](http://www.vaccinateyourbaby.org) ECBT, founded by Rosalynn Carter and Betty Bumpers, has created these two websites. Each contains a broad array of educational materials and information about vaccines, their safety, vaccine research and science, vaccine misperceptions, and many other topics to help clinicians and parents.

**Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)**

[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org) and [www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org) IAC is a nonprofit organization that promotes immunization for all people against vaccine-preventable diseases. These websites offer educational materials, photos, and video clips for parents, healthcare professionals, the media, and the general public.

**National Network for Immunization Information (NNII)**

[www.immunizationinfo.org](http://www.immunizationinfo.org) NNII provides current, science-based, extensively reviewed information to healthcare professionals, the media, policy makers, and the public.

**U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

[www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) Vaccines.gov is the federal gateway to information on vaccines and immunizations for infants, children, teenagers, adults, and seniors.

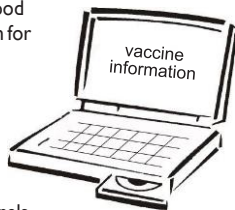
**Vaccine Education Center (VEC)** [www.vaccine.chop.edu](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu)

The goal of the VEC at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is to accurately communicate the facts about each childhood vaccine. VEC publishes a monthly vaccine e-newsletter for parents titled "Parents PACK." For more information or to subscribe, visit [www.vaccine.chop.edu/parents](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu/parents)

#### Phone Numbers

**CDC-INFO Contact Center**

A toll-free number for consumers and healthcare professionals who have questions about immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases. Call (800) CDC-INFO or (800) 232-4636. The Center operates 24/7 in English & Spanish. TTY: (888) 232-6348.



#### Books for Parents

**Baby 411, 4th edition**

By Denise Fields and Ari Brown, MD, Windsor Peak Press, 2009. Written by a Harvard-trained pediatrician (Brown) and the author of the best-selling *Baby Bargains* (Fields), this book is the ultimate compilation of frequently asked questions for baby's first year. It includes a special section on vaccines. To purchase, visit your local bookstore or [www.windsorpeak.com/baby411](http://www.windsorpeak.com/baby411)

**Do Vaccines Cause That?! A Guide for Evaluating Vaccine Safety, 1st edition**

By Martin Myers, MD, and Diego Pineda, MS. Published by Immunizations for Public Health, 2008. Get straight, science-based answers to parents' questions about the safety of vaccines. To purchase, visit your local bookstore or [www.dovaccinescausesthat.com](http://www.dovaccinescausesthat.com)

**Parents Guide to Childhood Immunization, 2010**

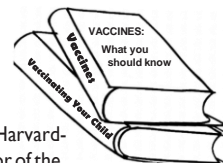
This 68-page booklet from CDC introduces parents to 14 childhood diseases and the 10 vaccines that can protect children from them. Parents can order a free booklet or print their own copy by visiting [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/parents-guide](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/parents-guide)

**Plain Talk About Childhood Immunization, 6th edition**

Washington State Department of Health, et al., 2008. This 54-page booklet provides parents with accurate information about immunizations and the diseases they prevent, vaccine safety, and other topics of interest to the public. The publication, available in English and Spanish, can be downloaded at <http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/plain-talk-about-childhood-immunizations> in either low resolution (for printing on office copiers) or high resolution (for professional printing).

**Vaccines and Your Child, Separating Fact from**

**Fiction, 2011** By Paul Offit, MD, and Charlotte Moser, Columbia University Press, 2011. This book answers questions about the science and safety of modern vaccines. In straightforward prose, Offit and Moser explain how vaccines work, how they are made, and how they are tested. Most important, they separate the real risks of vaccines from feared but unfounded risks. To purchase, visit your local bookstore or [www.cup.columbia.edu](http://www.cup.columbia.edu)



#### Videos

**"Vaccines and Your Baby" and "Vaccines: Separating Fact**

**from Fear"** Available for a nominal charge in English and Spanish in DVD format, these videos answer many questions that new parents have. Ordering information is available at [www.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/familyOrder.cfm](http://www.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/familyOrder.cfm) or parents can watch the videos online at [www.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/related-information/multimedia.html](http://www.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/related-information/multimedia.html).



## Find a Vaccine Provider

### Antrim County

#### Health Department of Northwest Michigan – Bellaire

209 Portage Drive

**231-533-8670**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

#### Health Department of Northwest Michigan – Charlevoix

220 W. Garfield Avenue

**231-547-0295** or **800-432-4121**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

#### Health Department of Northwest Michigan – Mancelona

205 Grove Street

**231-587-5052**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

#### Ironman Health Center

205 Grove Street

**231-587-4365**

*Through age 21*

### Benzie County

#### Benzie-Leelanau Health Department – Benzonia

6051 Frankfort Highway, Suite 100

**231-882-4409** | [bldhd.org](http://bldhd.org)

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

### Crawford County

#### District Health Department #10 – Crawford County

501 Norway Street, Suite 1

**989-348-7800** | [dhd10.org](http://dhd10.org)

### Emmet County

#### Health Department of Northwest Michigan – Harbor Springs

3434 M-119, Suite A

**231-347-6014** | [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org)

### Grand Traverse County

#### Grand Traverse Health Department – Traverse City

2600 LaFranier Road

[gtchd.org](http://gtchd.org) | **231-995-6111**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

#### K-Town Youth Care – Kingsley

112 S. Brownson

**231-263-5895**

*Through age 21*

#### Munson Healthcare Immunization Clinic – Traverse City

106 S. Madison Avenue

**231-935-8125**

*Infants, children or teens through age 18.*

*Medicaid and most insurances accepted.*

*No child will be turned away due to cost.*

#### Northwest Michigan Health Services – Traverse City

10767 Traverse Highway

**231-947-0351**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

#### Traverse Health Clinic – Traverse City

1719 Garfield Avenue

**231-935-0799**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

#### Youth Health & Wellness Center – Traverse City

880 Parsons Road

**231-922-6491**

*Through age 21*

### Kalkaska County

#### District Health Department #10 – Kalkaska

625 Courthouse Drive

**231-258-8669** | [dhd10.org](http://dhd10.org)

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

**Teen Health Center – Kalkaska**

419 S. Coral Street

**231-258-7791**

*Through age 21*

**Lake County**

**District Health Department #10 – Baldwin**

5681 S. M-37

**231-745-4663 | dhd10.org**

**Leelanau County**

**Benzie-Leelanau Health Department –**

**Lake Leelanau**

7401 E. Duck Lake Road, Suite 100

**231-256-0200 | bldhd.org**

*Vaccines for infants, children and adults*

**Manistee County**

**District Health Department #10 – Manistee**

385 Third Street

**231-723-3595 | dhd10.org**

**Mason County**

**District Health Department #10 – Ludington**

916 Diana Street

**231-845-7381 | dhd10.org**

**Mecosta County**

**District Health Department #10 – Big Rapids**

14485 Northland Drive

**231-592-0130 | dhd10.org**

**Missaukee County**

**District Health Department #10 – Lake City**

6180 W. Sanborn Road, Suite 1

**231-839-7167 | dhd10.org**

**Newaygo County**

**District Health Department #10 – White Cloud**

1049 Newell

**231-689-7300 | dhd10.org**

**Oceana County**

**District Health Department #10 – Hart**

3986 N. Oceana Drive

**231-873-2193 | dhd10.org**

**Otsego County**

**Health Department of Northwest Michigan –**

**Gaylord**

95 Livingston Boulevard

**989-732-1794 | nwhealth.org**

**Wexford County**

**District Health Department #10 – Cadillac**

521 Cobb Street

**231-775-9942 | dhd10.org**

Vaccinations are also provided at many local pharmacies. Costs and insurance coverage vary by location. Call providers in advance for costs, hours and availability. Visit [munsonhealthcare.org](https://munsonhealthcare.org) for the most current information.

To order additional childcare immunization toolkits, please contact Munson Community Health at **231-935-9255**.

## Notes

[illegible]