

Do you have a child about to enter kindergarten?



What are the required vaccines for children entering school for the first time?

- ✓ **DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis) – 5 doses**
- ✓ **Hib (haemophilus influenzae, b conjugant) – 3-4 doses**
- ✓ **Polio (poliomyelitis) - 4 doses**
- ✓ **Measles- 2 doses**
- ✓ **Mumps- 2 doses**
- ✓ **Rubella – 1 dose**
- ✓ **Hepatitis B – 3 doses**
- ✓ **Varicella – 2 doses**
- ✓ **Pneumococcal Conjugate- 4 doses**

Recommended vaccines

Although not required for school entry the following vaccines are recommended:

- Hepatitis A
- Flu

What information must be provided by the parent or guardian before a child attends a school (public, private, or religious in North Carolina?

A certificate of immunization, valid medical, or a bona fide religious exemption should be presented to the school on the first day of attendance.

Are vaccines safe and effective?

Yes. Vaccines are safe and effective in preventing serious vaccine preventable diseases that can be deadly. Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects that are usually mild (such as redness and swelling where the shot was given) and go away within a few days.

Where can I get vaccines and how much do they cost?

You can get the vaccines at your doctor's office or local health department. If your child is insured, the insurance may cover the costs of the vaccines. Contact your health care provider to find out how much the vaccines will cost. If your child is 18 years of age or younger, and meets one of the following qualifications, he or she is eligible to receive the vaccines from the state at no cost:

- Is eligible for Medicaid,
- Has no health insurance,
- Is Native American or Alaskan Native, or
- Has health insurance, but it does not cover the cost of vaccine, does not cover certain vaccines, or covers vaccines but has a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines. Once that fixed dollar amount is reached, a child is then eligible.

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What should I do?

Contact your child's health care provider or local health department to schedule an appointment to receive needed vaccines.

Be sure that the doctor provides a Certificate of Immunization that documents these vaccines have been received. You will need to show proof of vaccination prior to entering kindergarten.

How do I show proof of vaccination?

A physician, health clinic or local health department must give a Certificate of Immunization to the person who brings the child for immunization. You must give a copy of the Certificate of Immunization to your child's school to show proof of vaccinations.

What if my child is uninsured? How can I get help paying for vaccine administration fees and other health care services my child needs?

Your child may be eligible for Health Check/ Medicaid or NC Health Choice – free or low-cost health insurance for children and teens under 19 years old (up to 21 in some cases). Both Health Check and NC Health Choice offer a rich package of benefits. If you are uninsured, apply through your department of social services to find out if you qualify.

To learn more about these child health insurance programs, go to

www.NCHealthyStart.org.

How can I learn more?

Talk to your school's nurse, your health care provider, or your local health department.

You can also call the NC Immunization Branch at **(919) 707-5550** or go online at www.immunize.nc.gov for more information.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health



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