

Fast Facts

- Of children under six months of age who get pertussis (whooping cough), 72% must be hospitalized. It is estimated that 84% of all deaths from pertussis are among children less than six months of age.
- Up to 60% of severe disease caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) occurs in children under 12 months of age.
- Complications from pertussis (whooping cough) can include pneumonia, ear infection, seizures, brain disorders or death.
- A child who gets sick with diphtheria in the United States today has a one in 10 chance of dying.
- Most vaccines have a 90 to 100% success rate in prevention of disease.



RESOURCES

Call (800) 232-4636 (CDC-INFO) 24 hours a day. Talk to a trained operator at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to get answers to your individual questions about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.

- CDC's National Immunization Program:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- National Network for Immunization Information:
www.immunizationinfo.org
- American Academy of Pediatrics:
www.aap.org/new/immpublic.htm

REFERENCES

"Adult Immunization Schedule," National Immunization Program (NIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2006-2007.
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm

"Parents' Guide to Immunization," National Immunization Program (NIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2005,
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/bk_2005-parents-guide.pdf

"Preventing the Spread of Influenza in Childcare Settings: Guidance for Administrators, Care Providers and Other Staff," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2006,
www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/childcaresettings.htm



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Fast Facts *for families*



**What Every Childcare
Provider Should Know
About Immunization**

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Keeping infants and young children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases means more than just getting them immunized. It also requires that parents and others who take care of children stay up-to-date on their own immunizations.

Why is it important for childcare providers to be immunized?

Immunization is essential to keep you healthy and to protect you from infectious diseases. As a childcare provider, staying up-to-date on your own vaccinations will prevent you from spreading illnesses to infants and children who might not be fully protected. Young children often need more than one dose of a vaccine before they are completely protected from an illness - so a child who hasn't yet received all of the doses can still get seriously ill.

Why is an unvaccinated adult a threat to children's health?

Vaccine-preventable illnesses can cause serious and even life-threatening health problems for infants and children. Some of these illnesses are still fairly common – such as pertussis (whooping cough) and chickenpox. Adults who are not immunized can get these illnesses and spread them to children. In addition, some children are not current on their immunizations, some don't receive certain vaccines for medical reasons and some children's bodies are not able to respond to certain vaccines. For these children, the immunization of people around them is their only protection from disease.



Aren't adults who were immunized during childhood already protected?

Some adults incorrectly assume that the vaccines they received as children will protect them for the rest of their lives. Generally this is true, except that:

- Some adults were never vaccinated as children
- Newer vaccines were not available when some adults were children
- Immunity from some vaccines can fade over time, which is why adults need “boosters” to “boost” their protection against illness
- As we age, we become more susceptible to serious disease caused by common infections (e.g., flu, pneumococcus)

Which immunizations should childcare providers receive?

For the most current, detailed “Adult Immunization Schedule” from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), visit their website: www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

The following table gives a basic overview of recommended immunizations for adults from the CDC. Some of the vaccines are recommended for all adults, while a few are especially important for childcare and healthcare workers, or adults with certain risk factors for complications of illnesses:

| Vaccines Needed by Adults | Recommended Usage |
|--|--|
| Tetanus Diphtheria (Td) OR Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine | Every 10 years for all adults. |
| Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine | For adults who have no evidence of immunity to measles, mumps or rubella disease (lack of documentation of immunization or no evidence of infection with any of the diseases). Also recommended if some other risk factor exists (medical, occupational or lifestyle). |
| Influenza vaccine (once each year) | Recommended annually for all adults over age 50. Should also be given annually to adults with other risk factors (medical, occupational or lifestyle). |
| Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine | For adults who have no evidence of immunity to varicella (chickenpox) disease (lack of documentation of immunization or no evidence of infection with the disease). Also recommended if some other risk factor exists (medical, occupational or lifestyle). |
| Hepatitis A vaccine | For use in adults at risk due to medical, occupational or lifestyle-related factors. |
| Pneumococcal vaccine | Recommended annually for all adults over age 65. Should also be given annually to adults with other risk factors (medical, occupational or lifestyle). |
| Hepatitis B vaccine | For use in adults at risk due to medical, occupational or lifestyle-related factors. |
| Meningococcal vaccine | For use in adults at risk due to medical, occupational or lifestyle-related factors. |
| Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine | For females through age 26. |

Why is the flu shot needed every year?

Influenza, or flu, is an illness that can spread easily from one person to another, and can lead to serious illness in young children. The viruses that cause the flu are always changing, so the flu shot changes each year, too. You need to get the flu shot every year to have the best protection against getting sick. Adults who are in close contact with infants and children under age five need to have the influenza (flu) vaccine every year in the fall, before the annual flu season begins. Getting this shot every year is especially important for adults who are around infants younger than six months, since these babies are not yet old enough to be vaccinated against influenza and may become very ill if they get the flu.

What if I don't have health insurance or can't afford immunizations?

There are programs that provide free or low-cost immunizations to adults. To find out about your state Health Department's Immunization Program, go to www.vaccineinformation.org, where you will find contact information for your state office.

What do those who own or manage a childcare center need to know?

You can have a huge impact on your employees' health by helping them understand the value of vaccines. If you manage a childcare center, making proof of immunization mandatory for employees also makes your business more credible and more appealing to the parents. Making adult immunization a standard part of childcare shows you care about your employees and the families you serve. A healthy workforce is important to making a facility run smoothly and profitably.

