

<b>PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics / ECELS Webinar</b> <b>Immunization: Strategies for Success in Early Care and Education Programs</b> <b>Presented 1/16/20</b> <b>Q and A Document 3/26/20</b>	
<b>Question</b>	Which immunizations are required?
<b>Answer</b>	The recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) as noted in 55 Pa. Code Chapter 3270, 3280 and 3290.131(d)(5). All immunizations recommended by the ACIP are what is required for programs. The ACIP schedule is updated every year.
<b>Question</b>	When will the 2020 Immunization Schedules be ready?
<b>Answer</b>	<a href="#">2020 Immunization Schedules</a> are now available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.
<b>Question</b>	Is Influenza (flu) vaccine required?
<b>Answer</b>	Yes – Annually, as soon as available each Fall for children 6 months of age and older.
<b>Question</b>	Is Influenza (flu) vaccine required for school-age children enrolled in before/after school programs?
<b>Answer</b>	No, it's not required by regulation. However, to prevent the spread of influenza to infants and other young children in the child care program it's a good idea.
<b>Question</b>	Can children be enrolled without up to date immunizations?
<b>Answer</b>	Yes – however verification of immunizations or one of the acceptable exemptions must be received no more than 60 days following the first day of attendance. (28 Pa. Code 27.77)
<b>Question</b>	Do DHS Regulations permit exemptions to immunizations?
<b>Answer</b>	DHS Regulations permit written exemptions from immunization for religious belief or strong personal objection equated to a religious belief or for a medical exemption.
<b>Question</b>	What documentation is required if a family requests an exemption from immunization(s) for their child?
<b>Answer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exemption from immunization for religious belief or strong personal objection equated to a religious belief must be documented by a written, signed and dated statement from the child's parent or guardian. The statement shall be kept in the child's record.</li> <li>- Exemption from immunization for reasons of medical need shall be documented by a written, signed and dated statement from the child's physician, physician's assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP). The statement shall be kept in the child's record. [55 Pa. Code Chapters 3270/3280/3290.131(e)(2)]</li> <li>- Statement does not need to be notarized. There is no expiration date on the medical, ethical or religious exemptions- it is one and done as long as it is kept in the child's record. The <i>temporary</i> medical exemption must be reviewed every 30 days.</li> </ul>
<b>Question</b>	Can a child care program refuse to enroll a child whose family claims the exemption to immunization?

<b>Answer</b>	DHS Regulation 3270/3280/3290.121 requires the operator to review with the parent at the time of application, the facility's policies, sign an agreement and require compliance with regulations relating to health policies. Child care regulations require child health reports that include status of immunizations and updated subsequent reports. Regulations also allow a written exemption. It is up to an individual child care program to develop policies relating to program specific health policies, exemption and enrollment. It is recommended a program seek legal advice relating to refusing to enroll specific children.
<b>Question</b>	What is required by DHS if a children's immunizations are delayed, e.g., illness, doctor's schedule, insurance requirements?
<b>Answer</b>	- If a child has not received vaccines according to the Immunization Schedule have documentation about the reason and plan. - <a href="#">Catch-up immunization schedule for persons aged 4 months–18 years who start late or who are more than 1 month behind, United States, 2020</a> - Catch-up schedules and minimal intervals between doses for children based on age whose vaccinations have been delayed. (Source: <a href="#">CDC</a> ) This would be included in the <i>temporary</i> medical exemption and must be reviewed every 30 days. It must be in the in the child's record.
<b>Question</b>	How do we check doses when different vaccine brands are used that may require fewer doses?
<b>Answer</b>	Vaccines are offered based on availability and consultation with the health care provider and parent. Use the schedule as provided by the ACIP unless the child's doctor provides documentation that other vaccines have been given that require fewer doses. Count the child as up to date if all doses of that vaccine were given.
<b>Question</b>	What immunizations are required for staff?
<b>Answer</b>	DHS does not require immunizations for staff however tuberculosis screening by the Mantoux method at initial employment is required. Subsequent tuberculosis screening is not required unless directed by a physician, physician's assistant, CRNP, the Department of Health or a local health department.
<b>Question</b>	What immunizations are recommended for staff?
<b>Answer</b>	There are no regulatory requirements for staff immunizations except the tuberculosis screening by the Mantoux method at initial employment. Consult with your health care provider at the time of pre-employment as well as ongoing adult health check-ups. Recommendations include annual influenza vaccination and up to date Tdap (tetanus and diphtheria with acellular pertussis).
<b>Question</b>	What are tools to keep track of Immunizations?
<b>Answer</b>	- Department of Health: Immunization Tool – <a href="#">When Do Children Need Immunizations?</a> - ECELS <a href="#">WellCare Tracker™</a> : Secure, online tool to track routine preventive health services and immunizations. Generates reports for individual children and entire program that can be shared during certification visit. \$25.00 one – time set up fee and \$1.50/per child/per year fee.
<b>Question</b>	Will every program receive a visit from the PA Department of Health Division of Immunizations (DOI)?
<b>Answer</b>	PA Department of Health Division of Immunization (DOI) nurses visit a sample of child care group settings – not all. During visits to child care group settings, if the facility is found to have incomplete immunization records a referral will be made by DOI nurses to OCDEL certification staff.
<b>Question</b>	What other forms besides the DHS <a href="#">CD 51 Child Health Report</a> can be used to document a child's physicals and immunizations?

<b>Answer</b>	Other forms can be used if they include the same information requested in the CD 51. For example, use the CD 51 and attach a photocopy of the child’s immunization record. Also acceptable is the H511.336 (Rev. 9/2012), which is the form for <b>Private or School Physical Examination of a School Age Student</b> ; and electronic print outs from a child’s doctor’s office if all information requested on the CD51 is included on the doctor’s form.
<b>Question</b>	Is there a resource to help our program develop/revise our written policies about immunizations and refusal to immunize?
<b>Answer</b>	<a href="#">Model Child Care Health Policies, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.</a> - Model policies as site-specific documents that can be adapted to fit your program. See Section 10 – Health Plan (pages 69, 71); <a href="#">Appendix E: Refusal to Vaccinate</a> )
<b>Question</b>	Where can we obtain additional information?
<b>Answer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Caring for Our Children / Caring for Our Children Basics</i> <a href="#">Standard 7.2.0.1: Immunization Documentation</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Immunization Action Coalition</a> (IAC): Handouts, Vaccine Information Statements. etc.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Vaccines for Children Program</a> (VFC): Provides vaccinations to children who do not have health insurance or children who are insured but insurance does not cover immunizations (underinsured). These children are eligible to receive federally funded vaccines at public sites, including Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.</li> <li>- <a href="#">ECELS Immunization Self-Learning Module</a> (2 hrs. PA Key credit; \$15.00 per person fee)</li> <li>- <a href="#">2020 Immunization Schedules</a> - (CDC) Immunization Schedule</li> </ul>