

Frequently Asked Questions

School and Childcare Immunization Requirements

Question: Where can I find a free or low cost immunization clinic?

Answer: Visit <http://www.cir.org/immunizations/> or call Community Information and Referral at 602-263-8856 or 1- 800-352-3792 from area codes 520 & 928.

Question: Which immunizations are required for school and/or childcare attendance?

Answer: 2011-2012 school, childcare, preschool and Head Start immunization requirements are posted at <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/back2school.htm>.

Question: Are all children required to have proof of Varicella immunization for the 2011-2012 school year?

Answer: As of 9/1/2011 all children 12 months and older must have documentation of varicella immunization to enroll in childcare or school in Arizona. Parental recall will not be accepted as proof of immunity. Exemptions for medical reasons, laboratory evidence of immunity, religious beliefs in childcare/preschool settings and personal beliefs in Kindergarten -12th grade are available.

Children who have enrolled in childcare or school in Arizona prior to 9/1/2011 with parental recall of chicken pox disease are allowed to continue attending childcare or school without further documentation of immunity.

One dose of Varicella vaccine meets school requirements for all students except those who receive their first dose of Varicella vaccine at 13+ years of age. Only students who receive Varicella #1 at 13+ years of age are required to have 2 doses.

Question: Is Tdap required for school?

Answer: 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders who are 11 years or older and who have not received a DTaP, DTP or Td dose in the last 5 years are required to have proof of one dose of Tdap by September 1, 2011. Students who are 11 years or older in grades kindergarten through 5th are not required to receive Tdap vaccine.

Students 11 years and older in other grades are required to have proof of one dose of Tdap if 10 years have passed since their last dose of DTaP, DTP, or Td.

Students 11 years and older who are in the process of receiving their primary series of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine are also required to receive 1 Tdap as part of the series.

Question: Is meningococcal vaccine (MV/MCV) required for school?

Answer: 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders who are 11 years or older must have proof of one dose of meningococcal vaccine by September 1, 2011. Students who are 11 years or older in grades kindergarten through 5th are not required to receive meningococcal vaccine.

Question: What if a 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grader is 10 when school starts, but turns 11 during the school year?

Answer: When the student reaches age 11, he or she should be referred for meningococcal vaccine. The student should also be referred for Tdap if 5 or more years have passed since the last dose of DTaP, DTP, or Td.

Question: Where can I find an exemption form?

Answer: The school exemption form is posted at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/pdf/school-exemption-form.pdf>

The childcare exemption form is posted at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/pdf/childcareexemption.pdf>

Question: If a child's immunizations were not given on schedule, how do I know if the doses are valid and when the next doses are required?

Answer: The minimum ages and intervals for valid vaccine doses are posted at

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2010.pdf>.

Intervals to meet school requirements are contained in age-specific documents posted at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/back2school.htm>.

A statement of Arizona's policy regarding the 4-day grace period is posted at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/pdf/4-dayGracePeriodAIPOStatement.pdf>

Question: Where can I get more of the Arizona School Immunization Record card (ASIR 109R) cards?

Answer: Complete the form at http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/pdf/forms_request.pdf.

Fax the completed form to (602)364-3285.

Question: When will I receive the Immunization Data Report (IDR) forms for my school or childcare center?

Answer: No forms will be mailed to schools outside of Pima County. Schools will use the web application at <https://app.azdhs.gov/IDR/Forms/NewSchoolImmunizationForm.aspx> to report on kindergarten, sixth grade and tenth grade students. IDR forms will be mailed to childcare centers in August and September.

Question: I am not sure whether or not a child has all the vaccine doses required for childcare or school. How can I get the child's record reviewed?

Answer: You may send an e-mail to Jennifer.Ralston-King@azdhs.gov. Include the child's date of birth and all immunization dates. Do not include the child's name. If you do not have e-mail access, call 602-364-3632 to set up a time for a consultation.