

Back to School Supply List



Add Immunizations to Your Checklist

A new school year will be here soon. Parents and guardians registering children for school need to make sure children are up-to-date on their immunizations.

Missouri law requires that children in kindergarten through 12th grade receive immunizations to protect against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. This helps protect everyone - children, teachers, staff and the community as a whole.

A child's immunization record must be presented at school. State regulation specifies that an individual cannot attend until all required immunizations are current.

Children attending kindergarten through 12th grade are required to have the following immunizations or boosters:

- DTaP – Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; or
DT – Diphtheria and tetanus;
- Tdap – Pertussis (8th – 12th grade);
- IPV – Polio;
- Hepatitis B;
- MMR – Measles, mumps, rubella; and
- Varicella – Chickenpox.

Getting your child immunized can be easy and inexpensive. For families with health insurance, all vaccines are usually

covered. Children age 18 and younger may be eligible to get vaccines free through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program if they are Medicaid eligible, do not have health insurance, underinsured or are an American Indian or Alaskan Native. Doctors can charge a fee to give each vaccine. However, VFC program funded vaccines cannot be denied to an eligible child if the family cannot afford the fee.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Back to School tools and resources are available to help remind parents/guardians to get children immunized before school starts.

These tools and resources include a kindergarten ready award, sticker and poster, as well as a bookmark, reminder postcards (both hardcopy and ecards), fact sheets, tip card and information on the Vaccines for Children program. They are available at no cost and can be ordered at health.mo.gov/immunizations or by calling 800.219.3224.