

Back to School Supply List



Add Immunizations to Your Checklist

As you know, immunizations are crucial in protecting a child's health and as a primary trusted source of information for parents, you play an important role in safeguarding the health of Missouri's children. Missouri law requires children in kindergarten through 12th grade enrolled in public, private, or parochial schools to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and varicella. You can beat the back to school rush by immunizing your patients throughout the summer. Utilize every visit as an opportunity to immunize: well child check-ups, camp, sports, and travel physicals.

According to State law, it is unlawful for any child to attend school unless the child has been adequately immunized as outlined in Missouri's school requirements.

However, in rare cases, exceptions are given to children who have official exemptions on file. A religious exemption is a signed testament by the parent or guardian that immunization of that child violates their religious beliefs. A medical exemption is signed by a licensed doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy that either the immunization would seriously endanger the child's health or life or the child has documentation of laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease. An in progress card is filed when a

child has started an immunization series and satisfactory progress towards fulfilling state requirements is being accomplished. Failure to meet the next scheduled appointment constitutes noncompliance with the school immunization law.

Talk to parents about vaccine safety and efficacy concerns and encourage them to immunize their children before school. 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, 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.

For information on the Back to School tools and resources, how to utilize Missouri's immunization registry, ShowMeVax, to track student's immunization, status or additional immunization information visit the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' web site at health.mo.gov/immunizations or call 800.219.3224.

