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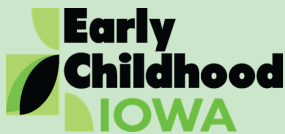


3 Ways to Support Immunization in Your Child Care Program

- Check immunization records regularly to ensure each child is up to date.
- Educate yourself and ensure that you & your staff are vaccinated.
- Educate parents & help connect them to credible resources.

Source: CDC

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



<https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/>

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by



Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN BSN

AUGUST 2021

Childhood Immunizations

A Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report released in May 2020 found a troubling drop in routine childhood vaccination as a result of families staying at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A recently released follow-up study of immunization data in 10 states (including Iowa) showed a substantial decrease in childhood vaccination rates during the pandemic and “catch-up” vaccination has not yet been achieved putting children at risk.

Declines in vaccination leave children and communities vulnerable to the spread of vaccine preventable diseases. It's important that children stay on track with their well-child appointments and routine vaccinations because:

- Outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases have the potential to cause further closure of schools and child care.
- Health care and public health systems may become overburdened by the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine preventable disease outbreaks.

There are four acceptable Iowa immunization certificate forms for vaccination status:

- *IDPH Certificate of Immunization*
- *IDPH Certificate of Immunization Exemption Medical*
- *IDPH Certificate of Immunization Exemption Religious*
- *Provisional Certificate of Immunization*

Child care providers should assess each child's immunization record at enrollment to make sure that the child is meeting immunization requirements for child care. Certificates must be signed and dated by a physician (MD or DO), RN, physician's assistant, certified medical assistant, nurse practitioner, county public health nurse, or school nurse. Your local CCNC can assist with immunization resources and acceptable certificates for children in care. Child care providers can help remind parents about the importance of vaccination and keeping on track.

Vaccination Resources

Iowa Department of Public Health <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/immtnb/immunization/laws>
Vaccinate Iowa COVID-19 <https://vaccinate.iowa.gov/>

COVID-19 Resources

Iowa Department of Human Services <https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare-covid-19>

Healthy Child Care Iowa <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

Child Care Resource and Referral <https://iowaccrr.org/providers/links/resources2020/>

Centers for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>