

Quality Care For Kids Newsletter



September 2023 | Essential Child Care Immunizations

Written by Kim Gonzales, RN, BSN, MBA | Healthy Child Care Iowa

Summer is winding down and children are heading back to their normal routines. This is also a time many families go to the doctor for physicals and vaccines. The vaccines children receive can be the parent's choice, but there are some that are required for school or child care. It is very important that children get the required vaccines before going to child care.

During the recent pandemic, experts found that some children and adults may not have all the vaccinations they need. This caused the number of children who have all the required vaccinations in to go down in Iowa and across the nation. The recent 2022 annual report from the Iowa Immunization Program shows the vaccination rate has gone down for 2-year-olds since 2018.

We often say:

"I got a shot when I went to the doctor."



Some words that mean "shot" are:

- Vaccine
- Vaccination
- Immunization
- Booster (we get some shots more than once to "boost" your ability to fight off the sickness.)



2022 Iowa Childhood Immunization data.

<https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Portals/>



High vaccination rates matter.

According to Iowa Immunizes, "Decreasing vaccination rates put communities at risk for outbreaks of dangerous and deadly diseases that are easily prevented with safe and effective vaccines. High rates of community vaccination protects those not able to receive vaccines, like very young children and people with compromised immune systems."

Early childhood programs can help to improve the number of children who have all the required vaccines. It is important to share information with families about vaccines and why children need vaccinations to attend child care. Child care facilities should know what Iowa's laws are for child care vaccines. Reviewing immunization records can be overwhelming and complex. You can request a free Child Health Record Check Up for your business. Contact your local Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) for more information.

Healthy Child Care Iowa has immunization trainings provided by CCNCs to help you learn about vaccines. Available trainings can be found on I-Power. Another great resource is the "Immunization Law and You" brochure from the Iowa Immunization Program assists families and early childhood providers in understanding what vaccines and forms are required for child care and school, along with other frequently asked questions.

Immunization Law and You

https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/206/idph_immunizationlaw.pdf



Scan the QR code to find your local CCNC or visit online at hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants

CCNC Contact:
Jessica Redden, RN
Scott County Health Department
P. 563.326.8618 ext. 8821
E. jessica.redden@scottcountyiowa.gov

