



State of Utah

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August 23, 2011

Dear School Administrator,

Educational institutions are potential high-risk areas for transmission of vaccine preventable diseases. You are probably aware of the recent measles outbreaks in Utah schools this past spring affecting several districts, charter, and private schools. Utah is also experiencing increased cases of Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox in our schools. Outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases can prove enormously costly for staff and employers. Most importantly, ill teachers, staff and students can spread disease, suffer pain, discomfort, and lose educational learning opportunities by not being in school.

In response to these outbreaks and requests for information, the Utah Department of Health is providing the Utah School and Child Care Employee Immunization Recommendations. This is a list of recommended vaccines for teachers and staff in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). It was further reviewed and recommended by the Utah Scientific Vaccine Advisory Committee. The Department strongly recommends that all current full and part time teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, and staff with student contact in Utah schools provide records of immunization or immunity for the vaccines identified starting with this school year. We also recommend that consideration is given to requiring records for these immunizations or immunity for new employees in the future. Instituting an employee immunization policy can decrease the number of days teachers, staff and students miss due to illness.

Utah schools do an excellent job of maintaining immunization records of students and they can identify and exclude un-immunized students quickly in response to an outbreak. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to develop a system to maintain current immunization records of your staff as well to help you quickly identify teachers and other staff that can continue working during an outbreak and which would need to be sent home in order to control the outbreak. The recent experience with the Utah measles outbreak in which school staff immunization records were not immediately available revealed significant delays that occurred in determining which faculty and staff could remain at work during the outbreak.



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To report Disease or Outbreak 1-888-EPI-UTAH (374-8824)

We appreciate your time and strong consideration of this recommendation as another strategy in preventing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in your schools. If you have further questions or would like to request educational materials on immunizations for children or adults, please contact the Utah Immunization Program at (801) 538-9450 or your local department of health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Garrett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teresa Garrett, RN MS
Director, Division of Disease Control and Prevention
Chair, Utah Scientific Vaccine Advisory Committee

Utah School and Child Care Employee Immunization Recommendations

Educational institutions and child care facilities are potential high-risk areas for transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases. While immunization is an important health requirement for students in Utah schools and child care facilities, it is equally important for staff in these settings to be protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Employee immunization can decrease the number of days teachers, staff and students miss due to illness. Absence due to sickness causes disruption in class schedules resulting in missed educational learning opportunities. Most importantly, teachers, staff and students who come to school sick can spread disease, suffer pain, and discomfort. Additionally, vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks in school and child care settings can result in enormous costs for staff, students, parents, employers and public health.

The Utah Department of Health recommends that prior to employment in Utah schools and licensed child care facilities, all full- and part-time employees, including teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, and staff, show proof of vaccination against: measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, influenza, varicella, and hepatitis A. This recommendation is in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). School districts and child care facilities are encouraged to keep employee vaccination records on file.*

Recommended Immunizations For Teachers and Child Care Staff ¹		
Vaccine	Persons Born Before 1957	Persons Born In or After 1957
MMR ² (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	1 dose for women of childbearing age and for all adults <u>not</u> born in the U.S.	2 doses of MMR, at least 1 month apart
Varicella (chickenpox) ³	2 doses	
Hepatitis A	2 doses	
Hepatitis B ⁴	3 doses	
Td/Tdap ⁵ (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough))	1 dose of Tdap, then Td booster every 10 years	
Influenza	Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older	

¹ All full- and part-time teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers and staff.

² Proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella is recommended for staff of licensed group and family child care centers. MMR vaccine is recommended for teachers and staff in other school settings.

³ Varicella vaccine is recommended for those who do not have documentation of age-appropriate immunization, a reliable history of varicella disease (physician diagnosis or personal recall) or serologic evidence of immunity.

⁴ Federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require some employers to offer hepatitis B vaccine to child care staff whose responsibilities include first aid.

⁵ All adults should receive a single dose of Tdap, especially those who have close contact with infants less than 12 months of age (e.g., child care staff). There is no minimum interval between Tdap and a previous dose of Td.

*The Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS) is a statewide information immunization system that contains immunization histories for Utah residents of all ages. Many school districts and child care facilities are enrolled in USIIS. Employers can input and maintain their staff immunization status through USIIS. For more information on how to enroll in USIIS, please contact the Utah Immunization Program at 801-538-9450.