

IMMUNIZATIONS

The DECE is committed to ensuring that Pre-K for All programs adhere to state and local public health laws, including requiring vaccination of children prior to pre-K admission. Programs must take appropriate measures to protect the health of New York’s students.

What You Need to Know

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All children must be immunized in accordance with New York Public Health Law §2164 and the requirements of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

- Prior to granting a student entrance into your Pre-K for All program, you must ensure that he or she has:
 - Obtained all [required immunizations](#), or
 - Obtained, at a minimum, the provisional immunizations to enroll, or
 - Received an exemption for any missing immunizations.
- You must collect immunization records at Pre-Registration.
 - If the family is not able to provide the immunization records in June, you can collect the immunization record in September before the child starts school.
 - If a family is unable to locate their child’s immunization records, please inform them that they can contact the Citywide Immunization Registry which can provide a copy of the records.
- As of May 2015, immunization requirements for entering 4-year old students include:

Immunization	Doses Required	Notes
DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis) OR DTP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis)	4 doses	
IPV (inactivated poliovirus) OR OPV (oral poliovirus)	3 doses	
MMR (measles-mumps-rubella)	1 dose	On or after 1 st birthday
Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b)	1 to 4 doses	Number of doses depends on the child’s age at first dose
Hepatitis B	3 doses	
Varicella	1 dose	On or after 1 st birthday
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)	1 to 4 doses	Number of doses depends on the child’s age at first dose
Influenza	1 dose	Between July 1 and December 31 of the school year. Depending on their influenza vaccine history, some children may need 2 doses of the influenza vaccine

PROVISIONAL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Pre-K for All students must have the required immunizations in order to participate in Pre-K for All. Students may enter school provisionally with documentation of at least one dose of each of these initial series of immunizations:

Immunization	Doses Required	Notes
DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis) OR DTP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis)	1 dose	
IPV (inactivated poliovirus) OR OPV (oral poliovirus)	1 dose	
MMR (measles-mumps-rubella)	1 dose	
Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b)	1 dose	
Hepatitis B	1 dose	
Varicella	1 dose	
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)	1 dose	
Influenza	1 dose	Received between July 1 and December 31 of the school year

Once students start school, subsequent vaccines must be administered in accordance with the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) [“catch up” schedule](#) for the student to be considered “in process” and continue to attend Pre-K for All.

Under no circumstances, can a child attend a Pre-K for All program if immunization information has not been provided for a child.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

The influenza vaccination mandate requires that all children 6 months to 59 months old enrolled in child care receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine between July 1st and December 31st each year.

- In calendar year 2015 (January-December 2015), the Health Department’s Bureau of Child Care will enforce the influenza vaccination requirement by educating child care staff during routine inspections.
 - No violations will be issued in calendar year 2015 to programs who fail to ensure all children receive the influenza vaccination.
 - Beginning January 1st, 2016, the Department of Health will begin issuing notices of violation and potential fines to child care facilities that fail to ensure all enrolled children receive the influenza vaccination.

1. Must all children attending Group Family Day Care providers receive the influenza vaccination?

No, influenza vaccination requirements apply only to providers overseen by the NYC DOHMH. Group Family Day Cares are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Families and therefore, the influenza mandate does not apply to their program.

2. Are any immunization exemptions available?

Section 2164 of the New York Public Health Law, which governs New York Pre-K programs, permits the following two exemptions to mandatory immunization requirements:

1. If the parent objects to the immunization because the parent holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the requirement that the child be immunized.

OR

2. If a New York State licensed physician certifies that such immunization may be detrimental to the child's health.

An exemption may not be granted based on a philosophical objection or reservations about the efficacy of the immunization(s).

Additional information on the immunization exemption application and approval process is forthcoming.