

Immunization Schedules

Receipt of immunizations in a timely fashion is a key element in the success of providing a community with protection against vaccine preventable diseases. In order to accomplish this goal, a standardized immunization schedule is important. In the United States this task is performed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Established under the Public Health Service Act, ACIP is a group of medical and public health experts that develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control vaccine preventable diseases in the United States. Chosen by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the ACIP consists of 15 experts in the fields of vaccines, immunology, pediatrics, internal medicine, nursing, family medicine, virology, public health, infectious diseases, and preventive medicine. Voting members are responsible for making vaccine recommendations. These recommendations are re-evaluated at least yearly. We have included the schedule in a graph form that is color coded to help simplify it.

Despite our efforts to have patients receive immunizations in a timely fashion for various reasons, some patients fall behind. ACIP also has schedules for catching patients up. This very important schedule is included in the attachments.

Both of these schedules have extensive footnotes which are useful when interpreting the schedules.

In addition to these schedules, Michigan also has requirements for school and child care entry. The requirements for school and child care entry are developed annually by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The MDCH is one of the largest executive branch departments and is responsible for the management of public health in the state of Michigan.

The MDCH takes into account the ACIP recommendations when determining these requirements. One of the sources of confusion for the public, and some providers is that ACIP makes “recommendations”, while the State has “requirements”. It is important to remember that the state does not make schedules for giving immunizations it simply supports the ACIP and CDC schedules. MDCH only makes decisions on which vaccines are required for school and child care entry. There are many factors that are considered in making these requirements, including the difficulty providers may incur while trying to implement new recommendations from the CDC/ACIP.

Despite the fact that the State doesn't make immunization schedules, we have included the school and child care entry requirements here because this is most likely where providers will think to look for them.

Michigan School Requirements

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/042613_4_schoolrequirements_419077_7.pdf

Michigan Childcare/Preschool Requirements

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/033112_childcarerequire_383666_7.pdf