



## Is your family vaccinated?

**Pennsylvania residents, did you know?** The Department of Health (DOH) changed school immunization regulations, beginning this month. The regulations are intended to ensure that children attending school in Pennsylvania are adequately protected against potential outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Your child must have his or her required vaccines or risk exclusion from school.**

Talk to your child's pediatrician about the vaccines your child needs to attend school. He or she must have the required vaccines or a plan to complete those vaccines, or risk exclusion from school.

### Required Vaccinations

- Diphtheria and tetanus combined
- Pertussis
- Measles, mumps, and rubella combined
- Meningococcal conjugate (required for entry into 12th grade, or in the school year that the child turns 18 for students attending ungraded schools)

For more information about this regulation change, please visit [dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov](http://dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov).

### Keeping Your Vaccination Records Up to Date

Your vaccination record (sometimes called your immunization record) provides a history of all the vaccines you received as a child and adult. This record may be required for certain jobs, traveling abroad, or school registration.

### Locating Your Vaccination Records

Unfortunately, there is no national organization that maintains vaccination records. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not have this information. The only records that exist are the ones you or your parents were given when the vaccines were administered, and the ones in the medical record of the doctor or clinic where the vaccines were given.

If you need official copies of vaccination records, or if you need to update your personal records, you have several options:

- Ask parents or other caregivers if they have records of your childhood immunizations.
- Look through baby books or other saved documents from your childhood.
- Check with your high school and/or college health services for dates of any immunizations. Keep in mind that generally records are kept only for 1-2 years after students leave the system.
- Check with previous employers (including the military) that may have required immunizations.
- Check with your doctor or public health clinic. Keep in mind that vaccination records are maintained at the doctor's office for a limited number of years.
- Contact your state's health department. Some states (including Pennsylvania) have registries called Immunization Information Systems (IISs) that include adult vaccines.

### I can't find my record. What now?

If you can't find your personal records or records from the doctor, you may need to get some of the vaccines again. While this is not ideal, it is safe to repeat vaccines. Your doctor may also perform blood tests to see if you are immune to certain vaccine-preventable diseases.

-Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention