

Florida Immunization Requirements: FAQs

What are the school immunization requirements for children entering a Florida school for the first time or relocating from another state to Florida?

- Immunization requirements for children to attend school in Florida can be found at: www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/schoolguide.pdf (full text Immunization Guidelines document dated March 2013)

Where can I find the recommended immunization schedule for persons aged 0 through 18 years?

- www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunizations/children-and-adolescents/schedules-and-requirements/index.html (quick look schedule flyer)

Without medical insurance how can I get my children immunized?

- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is a federal program that provides eligible children with all recommended vaccines at no cost. The federal government pays for the vaccines. Doctors and clinics agree to give the vaccines to children who qualify.
- Children from birth through 18 years of age can receive VFC vaccine if they:
 - Are enrolled in Medicaid (including Medipass and Medicaid HMOs); have no health insurance; are an American Indian or Alaskan Native as defined by the Indian Health Services Act (25 U.S.C. 1603) or underinsured.
 - Underinsured includes: Those who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines. Whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only). Whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount, once that coverage amount is reached these children are categorized as underinsured.

***Health Departments in all counties participate in the VFC Program. ALL children can receive immunizations through the Dept. of Health with or without insurance.**

How can I get a religious exemption from immunization for my child?

- A request for a religious exemption from immunization requirements must be presented to the facility/school on the Department of Health's *Religious Exemption Form Immunization* (DH 681 Form). The Form is issued **ONLY** by county health departments and **ONLY** for a child who is not immunized because of his/her family's religious tenets or practices. Religious exemption from immunization requirements is located at:

www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/schoolguide.pdf (religious exemptions from immunizations are good indefinitely)

How can I get a Temporary Medical Exemption for my child?

- Health care providers may grant a Temporary Medical Exemption for children who are in the process of completing any necessary immunizations. The Temporary Medical Exemption requires an expiration date after which the exemption is no longer valid. The immunizations must be completed on or before that date. Temporary Medical Exemptions must be documented in Part B of the DH 680 Form.

How can I get a Permanent Medical Exemption for my child?

- Health care providers may grant a Permanent Medical Exemption for children who cannot be fully immunized due to medical reasons. In this case, the child's physician must state in writing, the reasons for exemption based on valid clinical reasoning or evidence. This must be documented in Part C on the DH 680 Form. (permanent medical exemptions from immunizations are good indefinitely)

How can I get a current and accurate immunization record for my child for school?

- Contact your child's health care provider who maintains your child's immunization records. Their office can provide you with your child's *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680), the form needed for school.
- Another place to look is at the County Health Department (CHD). If you received any immunizations there, they may be able to provide you with an immunization history. Locate a CHD in your area at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/public-health-in-your-life/county-health-departments/CHDlisting.html>.
- If your child has attended a child care center or school, they may have a copy of your child's immunization history on file at the center/school depending on how long ago they attended.

What is Florida SHOTS and how does it work?

- Florida SHOTS (State Health Online Tracking System) is a free, statewide, centralized online immunization registry that helps parents, health care providers and schools keep track of immunization records. Ask your health care provider for a personal identification number so you can view your child's immunization history and print a copy of your child's *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680).
- For more information visit the Florida SHOTS website at: <http://www.flshots.com>. You can also call the Florida SHOTS Help Desk at 1-877-888-7468.