

# Child Care Rule Update FAQs

## **Q. What are the new child care immunization requirements?**

A. Two vaccines have been added to the number of required vaccines. They are Hepatitis B (Hep B) and pneumococcal conjugate (PCV) vaccines. In addition to the two new required vaccines, varicella (chickenpox) is now required by 16 months rather than at 19 months.

## **Q. When does a child need to be in compliance with the new child care immunization requirements?**

A. Children have until June 1, 2018 to be meet the new immunization requirements.

## **Q. How is a child considered to be in compliance with the child care vaccine requirements?**

A. A child is considered in compliance when they have received the required number of doses of vaccine for their age per child care immunization requirements **or** they have a valid conditional attendance form or valid exemption.

## **Q. What exemptions are allowed in child care?**

A. Exemption provisions have not changed and medical exemptions are still allowed. State law allows a religious exemption only for *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib).

## **Q. What is meant by conditional attendance?**

A. A child without all required vaccines can conditionally attend child care as long the child has received at least on dose of each required vaccines and is scheduled to receive more doses to meet the requirement.

## **Q. What happens if a child does not follow the conditional immunization schedule?**

A. Children attending child care under conditional status who fail to follow the conditional schedule must be excluded from the child care facility. They may be allowed back into the facility when they follow the schedule or submit a valid exemption.

## **Q. What is a complete Hib series?**

A. Varies depending on vaccine type used, age the series was started, or the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Catch-up schedule. Check with your child's healthcare provider for guidance.

## **Q. My child started the PCV 13 series at 9 months of age, does she need all 4 doses?**

A. The number of doses for PCV13 depended on the age started, or the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice Catch-up schedule. Check with your child's healthcare provider for guidance.



**Q. What happens if a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak occurs in the child care and my child has a medical exemption or a religious exemption for Hib?**

A. If a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak occurs, children with medical or religious exemption must be excluded from attending the child care facility until the outbreak is over.

**Q. What is the difference between recommended and required vaccines?**

A. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) make vaccination recommendations. Doctors follow the recommendations as “best practices” to get the best protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. Not all vaccines recommended by ACIP are required in Montana to attend a licensed child care or school.

Child care immunization requirements serve as a "safety net" for children and adults who cannot be vaccinated, by reducing the number of susceptible people in the community.

**Q. What is meant by the 4-day grace period?**

A. At times, vaccine doses are given too early or too soon between doses. Vaccine doses given up to four days before the minimum interval or age are counted as valid. Live vaccines not administered at the same visit must be separated by at least four weeks.

**Q. There is a new requirement that child care staff need at least one dose of Tdap. Do staff need a Tdap every ten years?**

A. No. Documentation of receipt of Tdap at any time meets the requirement of the rule. The Tdap recommendation is currently once in a lifetime, then Td every ten years. While not required to work at the child care, it is recommended that you do get the Td every ten years.

**Q. Will I need to transfer the HES 101 information of children already in my facility to the new HES 101 on June 1?**

A. No. The older HES 101 form has Hepatitis B and pneumococcal vaccines listed in the “Recommended Vaccine” section. The June 1 version will have the vaccines moved up into the “Required Section”. Old HES 101 forms can be swapped out as needed.

**Q. Can I mail the immunization reminder cards?**

A. Yes, however the child’s confidentiality should be protected. If the child’s name is not listed on the card or if a letter is enclosed in an envelope, it can be mailed to the parent.