



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Henderson County, NC

Do you have a child about to enter kindergarten?

What are the required vaccines for children entering school for the first time?

- ✓ **DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis) – 5 doses**
- ✓ **Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b) – 3–4 doses**
- ✓ **Polio (poliomyelitis) – 4 doses**
- ✓ **Measles – 2 doses**
- ✓ **Rubella – 1 dose**
- ✓ **Varicella – 2 doses**
- ✓ **Pneumococcal Conjugate – 4 doses**

Recommended vaccines

Although not required for school entry, the following vaccines are recommended:

- ★ **Flu**
- ★ **Hepatitis A**

How do we know vaccines are safe and effective?

Vaccines undergo some of the most rigorous safety testing of any pharmaceutical.

Even after approval, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continuously monitor multiple early warning systems to detect any unexpected issues.

Vaccines train the immune system to build future protection, similar to natural infection, but without causing illness or its potential complications.

What information must be provided before a child attends school (public, private, or religious in North Carolina)?

A certificate of immunization, valid medical exemption, or a bona fide religious exemption must be presented to the school on the first day of attendance.

Where can I get vaccines and how much do they cost?

You can get the vaccines at your doctor's office or local health department. If your child is insured, the insurance may cover the cost of the vaccines. Contact your health care provider to find out how much the vaccines will cost.

If your child is 18 years of age or younger and meets one of the following qualifications, they are eligible to receive vaccines from the state at no cost:

- Is eligible for Medicaid
- Has no health insurance
- Is Native American or Alaskan Native
- Has health insurance, but does not cover the cost of vaccines, or does not cover certain vaccines.

What should I do?

Contact your child's health care provider or local health department to schedule an appointment for needed vaccines.

Be sure the provider gives you a Certificate of Immunization that documents the vaccines received. You will need to show proof of vaccination prior to entering kindergarten.

How do I show proof of vaccination?

A physician, health clinic or local health department must give a Certificate of Immunization to the person who brings the child for immunization.

You must give a copy of the Certificate of Immunization to your child's school to show proof of vaccinations.

What if my child is uninsured? How can I get help paying for vaccine administration fees and other health care services my child needs?

Your child may be eligible for Health Check/Medicaid – free or low-cost health insurance for children and teens under 19 years old (up to 21 in some cases).

If you are uninsured, apply through your department of social services to find out if you qualify.

To learn more about the state child health insurance program, go to www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/eligibility.

How can I learn more?

Talk to your school's nurse, your health care provider, or your local health department's immunization nurse.

You can also call the NC Immunization Branch at (919) 707-5550 or go online at www.immunize.nc.gov for more information.



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www.hendersoncountync.gov/health

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