

Immunization Recommendations for Utah Foster Parents

While immunization is an important health requirement for foster children, it is equally important that families taking care of these children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Children, particularly infants, are at high risk for transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases. Foster children are required to be up-to-date with their immunizations. However, infants don't receive their first immunizations until two months of age and aren't fully covered until two years of age. Surrounding these babies with a vaccinated foster care family will give them the protection they deserve. The Utah Department of Health encourages all foster parents and any other close contacts of the children who are placed in your home (including children in the household, grandparents, close family members and friends) to be vaccinated.

The Utah Department of Health recommends that prior to taking foster children into your home you check your immunization records, and make sure you are vaccinated against the following diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, influenza, varicella, and hepatitis A. This recommendation is in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The Department strongly recommends that all current foster families make sure they are up-to-date with the recommended immunizations listed below.

Recommended Immunization for Foster Care Families¹		
Vaccine	Persons born before 1957	Persons born in or after 1957
MMR ² (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	1 dose for women of childbearing age and for all adults not born in the U.S.	2 doses of MMR, at least one month apart
Varicella (Chickenpox) ³	2 doses	
Hepatitis A	2 doses	
Hepatitis B ⁴	3 doses	
Td/Tdap ⁵ (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis [Whooping Cough])	1 dose of Tdap; Td booster every 10 years	
Influenza	Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older	

¹Children already living in the foster home should be up-to-date with the recommended vaccinations based on age.

²Proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella is recommended for staff of licensed group and family childcare centers.

³Varicella vaccine is recommended for those who do not have documentation of age-appropriate immunization, a reliable history of varicella disease (physician diagnosis or persona recall) or serologic evidence of immunity.

⁴Federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) regulations require some employers to offer hepatitis B vaccine to group home staff whose responsibilities include first aid.

⁵All adults should receive a single dose of Tdap, especially those who have close contact with infants less than 12 months of age. There is no minimum interval between Tdap and a previous dose of Td.