



# Health History and Immunization Policy for Providers

As a child care provider, you will be exposed to infectious diseases more frequently than will someone who has less contact with children. To protect yourself and the children in your care, you need to know which immunizations you received as a child and whether you had certain childhood diseases. If you are not sure, your health care provider can test your blood to determine if you are immune to some of these diseases and can vaccinate you against those to which you are not immune. If you are pregnant or may become pregnant, it is important to have protection since some of the vaccine-preventable diseases can harm you and your unborn baby.

## **Tuberculosis (TB) Testing**

Persons who are beginning work as child care providers are required to have a TB skin test to check for infection with the TB germ. Anyone who has a positive result from the skin test should be evaluated promptly by a physician, who will check for active TB.

## **Recommended Immunizations for Child Care Providers**

Child care providers should have received all immunizations routinely recommended for adults.

**Influenza (Flu):** All child care providers, especially those who have chronic health conditions or are over 65 years of age, should be annually vaccinated against influenza.

**Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR):** Providers born before 1957 can be considered immune to measles and mumps. Others can be considered immune if they have a history of measles or mumps disease, or have received at least one dose of rubella vaccine on or after their first birthday.

**Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td):** Child care providers should have a record of receiving a series of three doses (usually given in childhood) and a booster dose given within the past 10 years.

**Polio:** Child care providers, especially those working with children who are not toilet-trained, should have a record of a primary series of three doses (usually given in childhood) and a supplementary dose given at least six months after the third dose in the primary series.

**Hepatitis A:** Hepatitis A vaccine is not routinely recommended for child care providers but may be indicated if the local health department determines that the risk of hepatitis A in the community is high.

**Chickenpox:** Child care providers who know they have had chickenpox can assume they are immune. All other providers should consider getting vaccinated because of the high risk of exposure to chickenpox.

**Hepatitis B:** Child care providers who may have contact with blood or blood-contaminated body fluids (such as bloody noses or cuts), or who work with developmentally disabled or aggressive children, should be vaccinated against hepatitis B with one series of three doses of vaccine.