



Sample Newsletter Articles Childhood Vaccine Campaign 2023

INFORMATIONAL

The Department of Health is encouraging families to get children caught up on wellness visits this spring. The COVID-19 pandemic made it hard for families to schedule in-person health visits. Many children need important checkups, including health screenings and vaccinations. If your child is due for a wellness visit, make sure to schedule an appointment with your doctor or clinic.

INFORMATIONAL FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Department of Health is encouraging families to get children caught up on wellness visits this spring. The COVID-19 pandemic made it hard for families to schedule in-person health visits. Many children need important checkups, including health screenings and vaccinations. If you are a health professional interested in promoting this message, the Department of Health has a dedicated web page with promotional materials and resources. Find the web page at:

<https://doh.wa.gov/childhood-vaccine-toolkit>

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

As families prepare for the next school year, you may have questions about our school's vaccine requirements. The Washington State Board of Health sets the immunization requirements for all public and private schools across the state. Our school makes sure students meet those requirements at the start of the school year.

Children normally receive vaccines required for school or child care during their well-child visits. If your child needs vaccinations, we recommend calling your doctor or clinic to schedule an appointment. Families who wait until late summer may have difficulty finding an appointment for their child.

Childhood Vaccine Program providers give childhood vaccinations at no or low cost. You can find an eligible clinic by visiting the Department of Health's web page at

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/vaccinemap>. Many pharmacies also offer childhood vaccines by appointment, but costs may be high if you don't have insurance.

If you need forms or guidance around vaccine requirements, the Department of Health has a helpful school immunizations web page in English and Spanish (<https://doh.wa.gov/vaxtoschool>) to help families navigate the requirements.

You may also reach out to our school nurse at [XXX-XXX-XXXX] or by email at {email@email.com}. They will be happy to answer any questions you have.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.





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HAVING TROUBLE SCHEDULING VACCINE APPOINTMENTS?

At the start of each school year, school staff must make sure children meet state vaccination requirements. Many health care providers and clinics still have an increased workload from COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses. Sometimes, this can make it difficult for families to schedule wellness visits or vaccinations for their children. Families often have different work schedules which make it hard to schedule appointments.

If your child needs vaccinations and you're experiencing these problems, we recommend calling your pharmacy to see if they can provide childhood vaccinations. Many pharmacies keep extended hours of operation and offer vaccination for children at certain ages. Costs may be higher if you don't have insurance, so make sure to ask.

If you are concerned about the cost of vaccination, many health clinics participate in the Childhood Vaccine Program, which provides routine childhood vaccinations at no or low cost in the state of Washington. You can find an eligible clinic using the Department of Health's vaccine map web page at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/vaccinemap/>.

In our area, the following health care providers participate in the VFC program:

[list]

A HISTORY OF POLIO

Polio is a virus which causes paralysis or lack of movement in part of the body. In the early 20th century, Polio caused disability in 35,000 people a year, and was a main concern for families with children. Polio spreads easily through person-to-person contact.

The introduction of polio vaccine in the 1950's helped to eliminate polio in the Western Hemisphere, which includes North and South America, and portions of Africa, Europe, and Antarctica. The current polio vaccine, called inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), provides 99 to 100% immunity with three doses.

In difficult to vaccinate areas around the world, a different type of vaccine, called oral polio vaccine (OPV), is still used. In very rare cases, OPV can cause a weakened version of the poliovirus in a vaccinated individual. The United States has not used OPV since 2000.

During the summer of 2022, there was an isolated polio case in New York. While we have not had an outbreak of polio in the United States in some time, it is important to keep your children vaccinated against polio.

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