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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

OCEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parent,

The Ocean County Health Department is providing you with the enclosed information about the importance of vaccinations to your children's health, and to assist you in complying with New Jersey Regulations governing vaccinations required for children attending childcare, preschool, and elementary school.

Vaccinations are as much a part of protecting your children as are helping them cross a busy street and having them wear bike helmets and seat belts.

Vaccine-preventable diseases are occurring in children in Ocean County in increasing numbers. Flu season will be reaching us soon, and the Flu vaccination can prevent serious illness and death in children.

Due to the importance of disease protection for children in childcare and public/private school, New Jersey Regulations require certain vaccinations for entry into school. Attached is information regarding the importance of vaccinations and the required vaccinations for childcare and school attendance.

For more information about recommended vaccines, please speak to your healthcare provider. For questions about the attached information, please contact the Communicable Disease Unit of the Ocean County Health Department at 732-341-9700, ext. 7515.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Regenye, MHA
Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer



Make Sure Children are Up-To-Date on Their Vaccinations

Remember:

- **Vaccinations can save your child's life.** Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. These diseases are occurring in children in Ocean County.
- **Vaccinations are as much a part of protecting your children** as are helping them cross a busy street and having them wear seat belts and bike helmets.
- **Vaccinations are very safe and effective.** Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals.
- **Immunization protects others you care about.** Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases. In fact, we have seen resurgences of measles, mumps and whooping cough (pertussis) over the past few years.
- **Immunization protects future generations.** Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that killed or severely disabled people just a few generations ago.



Flu Vaccination Season is Coming Requirements For PreSchool/Childcare

- **Flu vaccination** is the best way to protect yourself and your family from this serious disease.
- **Every Year in the U.S., 20,000 children under the age of 5** are hospitalized or die from severe complications of the Flu.
- **Something as simple as a Flu vaccination can save your child's life.**
- **If your child attends a childcare or preschool program and is between the ages of 6 - 59 months of age, he/she will be required receive a Flu vaccination between the dates of September 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.**
- **If a child does not receive his/her Flu vaccination, pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code 8:57-4.2, the child will not be permitted to attend the childcare/preschool program.**
- **Every year, the Ocean County Health Department offers flu shots to anyone over the age of 6 months. For more information, visit the Ocean County Health Department website at www.ochd.org. You may also call 732.341.9700, ext. 7515, with questions.**



Requirements for School Entry

For any child **entering Kindergarten or 1st Grade in a public/private elementary school**, he/she must have documentation for the following immunizations:

- Four (4) – DTaP shots - diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) – Some children will have five (5) shots by the time they start school.
- Three (3) – Polio shots – Some children will have four (4) shots by school entry.
- One (1) – Varicella shot (chicken pox) – Unless your child had chickenpox disease.
- Two (2) – MMR shots - measles, mumps and rubella (German measles)
- Three (3) - Hepatitis B shots

For any child **entering sixth (6th) grade (must be 11 years-old) and above**, he/she needs proof of the vaccinations noted above as well as the following:

- One (1) – Tdap shot (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) at 11 years old or older
- One (1) – Meningococcal shot

There are other **RECOMMENDED** vaccinations for children. Please discuss with your healthcare provider.