



Important Message to Parents with Children Entering Kindergarten

Immunization Requirements for All Children Entering Kindergarten

In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases (R23-1-IMM)*, all children entering kindergarten are required to have the following immunizations:

- **Three (3) doses of hepatitis B vaccine**
- **Five (5) doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine**
- **Four (4) doses of polio vaccine**
- **Two (2) doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine**
- **Two (2) doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine *or* a statement signed by your child's doctor stating that your child has a history of chickenpox disease.**

All children entering kindergarten are required to be up-to-date on their childhood immunizations as well as have a physical exam. This is the perfect opportunity to review your child's immunization record with his or her doctor to ensure your child is protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT FLU VACCINATION:

An annual Influenza (flu) vaccination is now RECOMMENDED for all children 6 months-18 years of age to prevent the spread of flu to others in daycare, preschool and school settings as well as at home and in the community. Influenza vaccine is available from October through April each year. Don't forget to ask your doctor about flu vaccine

Remember!!! Ask your doctor about your child's LEAD SCREENING TEST too! Evidence that your child has been tested for lead poisoning is also a requirement for entry into kindergarten.

As of September 2006, vision screening is a requirement for school entry. For details, visit <http://www.health.ri.gov/family/visioncreening.php>.