



GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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Honorable Kimberly Causey Gomez
Commissioner
Department of Human Services
Knud Hansen Complex, Building A
1303 Hospital Ground
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: **VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDCARE FACILITIES, PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS & SUMMER CAMPS
(2019-2020 School Year)**

As part of the Department of Health's mandate to ensure healthy communities in the Territory, it is recommended that the Department of Human Services (DHS) **require** the following immunizations for infants and children attending daycare centers and pre-schools in the US Virgin Islands.

The following vaccines are recommended by the Department of Health as well as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP):

Hepatitis B, Rotavirus, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenzae type b, Pneumococcal (Pneumovax) Inactivated Poliovirus, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Hepatitis A, and Influenza.

Please note that the Influenza vaccine is being recommended for the population you regulate. Children in childcare facilities 6 months old and above are encouraged to receive the influenza vaccine by December 31, 2019 (unless child is exempt – see guidelines below).

Through ongoing assessment of our coverage rates, it has been determined that less than 10% of the Virgin Islands children are vaccinated against influenza. Conditions in children facilities also promote the spread of influenza: there are a large number of people together who are in close contact, and there is poor respiratory hygiene (e.g., covering a cough). Even more, the highest rates of infection are in children less than 5 years old.

CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine. Vaccination is especially important for certain people who are at high risk or who are in close contact with high risk persons, including the following groups:

- Children younger than 5 years of age, and children of any age with a long-term health condition like asthma, diabetes, or disorders of the brain or nervous system. These children are at higher risk of serious flu complications (like pneumonia) if they get the flu. For the complete list of those at high risk, visit People at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications.
- Adults who meet any of the following criteria listed below should get a seasonal flu vaccine:
 - Are in close contact with children younger than 5 years of age (people who live with them).
 - Are out-of-home caregivers (nannies, daycare providers, etc.) of children younger than 5 years of age.
 - Live with or have other close contact with a child or children of any age with a chronic health problem (asthma, diabetes, etc.).
 - Are health care workers

The Department of Health requests that the Department of Human Services sends an official notice to all childcare centers and pre-schools of your Departments' updated vaccine requirements and revises your Universal Health Record form to include all of the above vaccines.

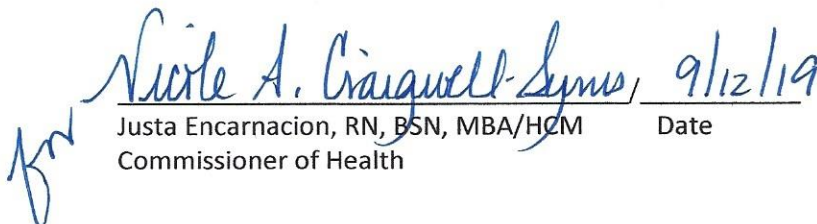
- All children shall receive the recommended vaccines(s) (and total number of doses), at the minimum age recommended in the attached immunization schedule prior to admissions to the childcare facility; however, for each child, eligibility to receive recommended vaccines will be determined by the clinic Nurse or health care provider.
- **Special vaccination instructions for children aged 6 months through 8 years of age for the influenza vaccines is also attached for your information and implementation.**

For more information concerning number of doses recommended based upon the child's age and immunization history, please refer to the attached "Recommended Immunizations Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 6 Years".

Please call the Department of Health MCH Program at (340) 777-8804 for St. Thomas/St. John or (340) 514-6839 on St. Croix if you have any questions concerning the vaccines recommended for infants and children specified above.

Please note: Exemptions may be granted for school-aged children based on the principles and teachings of a recognized religious organizations/church and if the vaccines/medical agents are medically contraindicated (please see VI Code Title 17, Chapter 10, Subchapter 116-3 & 116-4).

Sincerely,

 Justa Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM 9/12/19
Commissioner of Health

Date

Table 1

**Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for ages 18 years or younger
United States, 2019**

These recommendations must be read with the Notes that follow. For those who fall behind or start late, provide catch-up vaccination at the earliest opportunity as indicated by the green bars in Table 1. To determine minimum intervals between doses, see the catch-up schedule (Table 2). School entry and adolescent vaccine age groups are shaded in gray.

Vaccine	Birth	1 mo	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	9 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	19-23 mos	2-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	11-12 yrs	13-15 yrs	16 yrs	17-18 yrs
Hepatitis B (HepB)	1 st dose	2 nd dose					3 rd dose										
Rotavirus (RV) RV1 (2-dose series); RV5 (3-dose series)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	See Notes												
Diphtheria, tetanus, & acellular pertussis (DTaP: <7 yrs)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose			4 th dose				5 th dose					
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	See Notes		3 rd or 4 th dose	See Notes									
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)			1 st dose	2 nd dose	3 rd dose		4 th dose										
Inactivated poliovirus (IPV: <18 yrs)			1 st dose	2 nd dose			3 rd dose					4 th dose					
Influenza (IIV) or Influenza (LAIV)										Annual vaccination 1 or 2 doses			Annual vaccination 1 or 2 doses		Annual vaccination 1 dose only		Annual vaccination 1 dose only
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)					See Notes		1 st dose					2 nd dose					
Varicella (VAR)							1 st dose					2 nd dose					
Hepatitis A (HepA)					See Notes					2-dose series, See Notes							
Meningococcal (MenACWY-D ≥9 mos; MenACWY-CRM ≥2 mos)										See Notes					1 st dose	2 nd dose	
Tetanus, diphtheria, & acellular pertussis (Tdap: ≥7 yrs)															Tdap		
Human papillomavirus (HPV)															See Notes		
Meningococcal B															See Notes		
Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)															See Notes		

Range of recommended ages for all children
 Range of recommended ages for catch-up immunization
 Range of recommended ages for certain high-risk groups
 Range of recommended ages for non-high-risk groups that may receive vaccine, subject to individual clinical decision-making
 No recommendation