

Nanaimo Innovation Academy

PRE-EMPLOYMENT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Keeping your immunizations (vaccinations) up-to-date is important for everyone. As a child care worker, you are at risk of exposure to communicable diseases such as varicella, measles, mumps, rubella, influenza and pertussis because of the close contact you have with children. This also helps prevent the spread diseases to young children if you become ill. Please read the following information and then submit the provide form below to the Daycare Manager.

Required immunizations for child care workers:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) – for adults, one dose is needed, followed by Tetanus Diphtheria (Td) every ten years
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) – for adults born in or after 1970, two doses of MMR vaccine are needed; adults born before 1970 can be considered immune

Highly recommended:

- Annual influenza vaccination– for staff providing regular care to children less than 60 months of age. Children of this age are at high risk of influenza-related complications.

Recommended immunizations and immunity testing:

- Varicella (chickenpox)—Staff with an unknown history of chickenpox disease should receive two doses of vaccine or have laboratory evidence of immunity or infection. Staff with a history of physician-diagnosed chickenpox are considered immune.
- Hepatitis B—A three-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine (or laboratory evidence of immunity) is recommended for all child care staff. The vaccine is especially recommended for staff in centres where a child or worker has acute hepatitis B or is a hepatitis B carrier. However, children with hepatitis B infection are usually asymptomatic and you might not know the hepatitis B status of all children. Hepatitis B is a blood-borne virus.
- Hepatitis A—A two-dose series of hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all staff, including food handlers. A three-dose series of combined hepatitis A and B vaccine is also available. Hepatitis A is a virus that is shed in the stool. It is spread person-to-person by the fecal-oral route. Children who have hepatitis A often don't show symptoms. Changing diapers means hepatitis A could spread to staff. Food handlers with hepatitis A infection who do not wash their hands after having a bowel movement can spread the virus to others through food preparation.
- Pneumococcal Conjugate—One dose is recommended for staff ages 50 years and older. Immunity is considered to be lifelong.
- Herpes Zoster (shingles)—One dose at 60+ years (may be given between 50 and 59 years)
- Meningococcal (meningitis)—One dose at 24 years or younger

Women of childbearing age should have a blood test (titre test) done to check for immunity to the following infections:

- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Rubella (German measles)
- Parvovirus B19 (Fifth disease)
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

Tuberculosis screening is no longer required for staff working in licensed child care settings.

If you require an exemption, please notify the daycare manager and they will provide you with more details of the process. Exemptions from immunization may include the following reasons:

- Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief
- Statement of Medical Exemption