

Immunizations for all employees working in child care centres (2019)

Dear child care centre worker,

According to the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA), “Every licensee of a child care center shall ensure that... each person employed... has a health assessment and immunization as recommended by the local medical officer of health”.

Ottawa’s Medical Officer of Health requires all child care employees to have up-to-date immunization as listed below. Students and volunteers are also required to receive these immunizations.

Immunizations required for employment		
Vaccine Name	Diseases	Employees, Students or Volunteers
Td/Tdap	Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis	1 dose of Tdap in adulthood, then 1 dose of Td every 10 years
MMR	Measles Mumps Rubella	<p><i>If born in 1970 or later:</i> Minimum of 1 documented dose of MMR vaccine <u>or</u> proof of immunity (blood test)</p> <p><i>If born before 1970:</i> Assumed to have natural immunity</p>
Var	Varicella	<p>Fulfill one of these three criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of chickenpox or shingles after 1 year of age (self reported) • 2 doses of Varicella vaccine • proof of immunity (blood test)
Immunizations that are strongly encouraged (but not required)		
Vaccine Name	Diseases	Employees, Students or Volunteers
Flu	Influenza	Every year in the fall, at the start of flu season. Especially for employees caring for children under 5 years of age
HB	Hepatitis B	2 or 3 doses depending on age. Workers in child care centres where there is a child or worker who has acute HB or is a HB carrier should receive HB vaccine followed by immunity testing (blood test) 1 to 6 months after the last dose of HB vaccine. Because the HB status of children in child care centres is generally unknown, vaccination of all child care centre workers is strongly encouraged.

An employee who objects to immunization due to medical or non-medical reasons must complete a standardized approved exemption form from the Ministry of Education and provide it to the child care licensee.

In the event of an outbreak related to a vaccine preventable disease, Ottawa Public Health may order the exclusion of persons who have an incomplete immunization record from presence at a child care centre until the risk related to the outbreak has ended. This is to minimize the risk of spreading the disease and to protect unvaccinated staff and children.