



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Guidance Regarding Immunization Information for Foster Children and Children with Unstable Housing Enrolling in Licensed Childcare Facilities

July 15, 2025

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is committed to protecting and advancing the health, well-being and safety of everyone in Mississippi. This mission includes ensuring that our children are able to receive childcare in an environment with minimal risk of vaccine preventable communicable diseases while also ensuring that foster families and families experiencing hardship are able to access childcare in a timely manner with minimal barriers.

Since MSDH requires proof of vaccination or exemption for children enrolled in licensed childcare facilities (121 and 122 forms), the MSDH Office of Immunizations can be contacted directly at (601) 576-7751 to assist licensed childcare facilities, case workers, foster families, or families experiencing hardship with acquiring proof of immunization for children who have received vaccinations in Mississippi or other states. Immunizations can also assist with locating local options for vaccine clinics and providing temporary documentation of immunization compliance, as needed, for children needing to get caught up on immunizations.

1. Upon receiving a call identified by any of the above-mentioned circumstances, our Immunizations staff will do one or both of the following:
 - a. Transfer the call directly to one of our School Compliance/Exemption staff members.
 - b. Provide the caller with the email address of one of our School Compliance/Exemption staff members.
2. If the caller is simply needing proof of vaccination or vaccination record, they will be asked to provide the child's full name and date of birth and/or provide documentation that they have guardianship of the child or are a licensed childcare facility, which can be provided via email. The Office of Immunizations will then return the proof of vaccination or vaccination record by fax or encrypted email to the guardian and/or licensed childcare facility.
3. If the caller is needing to know local options for vaccine clinics, Immunizations staff can quickly provide them with that information over the phone or send it to them through email if preferred.
4. If the caller needs temporary documentation of immunization compliance, due to the circumstances listed above, the caller will be provided with the name and email of a School Compliance staff member and will be asked to send justification for the reason they need the temporary compliance. Upon receipt, these requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis for children who have received vaccinations in Mississippi or other states and can typically be answered within 24-48 hours.
5. If the caller has a vaccination record from another state for a child needing to get enrolled in a licensed childcare facility in MS, the caller will be provided with the email address of one of our School Compliance staff members and/or the fax number for the Office of Immunizations. Once the record is received, one of our clinicians can update the child's vaccination record in the Mississippi Immunization Registry and appropriate forms or records can be provided to the caller as needed/requested.

570 East Woodrow Wilson • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601-576-8090 • 1-866-HLTHY4U • msdh.ms.gov

Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services