

## Frequently Asked Questions for Parents of International Adoptees

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### What shots are required for school and childcare attendance in Oregon?

Oregon requires immunization against eleven vaccine-preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type B) – only for children under 5 years of age

## **What other shots are recommended?**

There are additional vaccines that children are not required to have to stay in school or childcare, however experts agree that children should have them for optimal protection. These immunizations may be added to the school/facility requirements in the future. These vaccines include:

- Pneumococcal
- Influenza
- Rotavirus
- Meningococcal
- HPV (human papillomavirus)

Recommended ages and schedules vary by vaccine. Please see your medical provider for additional information.

## **Do shots given in other countries count?**

Yes, as long as you can provide at least the month and year that the vaccine doses were given, most vaccine doses given in other countries will count towards meeting vaccination requirements in Oregon. Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccines will count only if they were given after one year of age.

## **How do I prove that my child has had shots?**

If you received an immunization record with other paperwork at the time of adoption, take your child's immunization record with you when you enroll your child in childcare or school. You will be given a Certificate of Immunization Status to complete with the dates of your child's shots. If your child's record is in a language other than English, having it translated into English beforehand will be helpful. If you are unable to have it translated, take the immunization record into to your local county health department and ask if they can assist you. Parents or guardians can sign the Certificate of Immunization Status; there is no need to have it signed by your child's medical provider.

**I'm concerned that the record of immunization I received may not be an accurate record? What should I do next?**

It is acceptable to use your child's immunization record to enroll them in childcare or school. However, if you have concerns that the immunization record is not accurate, you should consult with your child's medical provider. He or she may recommend blood tests that can be done to check for immunity or additional immunizations.

**How many doses of vaccine does my child need to enter childcare or school?**

Your child's completed Certificate of Immunization Status must show at least one dose of each required vaccine that is appropriate for their age. If there are vaccines your child has not yet received, it will be necessary for them to have an immunization visit before they can begin attendance.

**Where can I get a Certificate of Immunization Status?**

Your child's childcare provider or school will have copies of the correct form. You can also pick up a copy at your local county health department.

**What if I have lab results showing immunity?**

Oregon allows physicians and local county health departments to sign medical immunity exemptions for children who have documented immunity to certain diseases, including: *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) (if the child had Hib disease at 24 months of age or older), hepatitis B, hepatitis A, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella.

**Where can I take my child for shots?**

Most pediatric and family practice clinics offer shots. If your child has a regular medical provider, call their office for an appointment to get shots. If your child doesn't have a regular provider, contact your local county health department. They will be able to help you get shots for your child.

## **Does Oregon allow exemptions?**

Yes, Oregon allows two kinds of exemptions: religious, signed by a parent or guardian; and medical, signed by a physician or the county health department.

## **Are there immunization recommendations for the parents of international adoptees?**

Yes, there are immunization recommendations for the parents of international adoptees. If you are traveling out of the country, immunization recommendations differ based on the country where travel. See <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.aspx> for information about specific countries. In addition, contacts, like parents, grandparents, and caretakers, of adoptees from areas where hepatitis A virus is common should be vaccinated. See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5836a4.htm> for more information.