

Vaccine Recommendations vs. School and Childcare Rules: What is the difference?

There are several vaccines available to best protect children. These vaccines should be given at certain ages and are referred to as **recommended vaccines**. They are listed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Birth through 18 Years* at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

Since many vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles and chickenpox, are easily spread among children, there are [Communicable Disease \(CD\)](#) rules in place to best protect children when in close contact with others. These rules are state law and are commonly referred to as **required** vaccines for school and childcare attendance. These rules can vary from state to state.

Recommended Vaccines (A Standard of Care)	Required Vaccine (Mandated by each state government)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthcare providers follow the recommended immunization schedule because it provides the best and most complete protection against disease.• All recommended vaccines should be given to everyone at the indicated age, unless a medical condition that prevents vaccination is present.• Recommendations are based on health and safety considerations for the entire population.• Recommended vaccines prevent diseases that can be serious or potentially cause long-term health problems or death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These rules protect healthy children from some serious diseases and protect children who can't be vaccinated, (for instance, a child with cancer).• Michigan requires certain vaccines for entry into school, preschool, and childcare, but strongly encourages parents and providers to follow the recommended schedule for vaccination.• By following the recommended schedule, Michigan's school immunization requirements will be met.

Why are certain vaccines required?

Vaccines provide protection against serious disease for the person receiving them. They also provide protection to classmates and teachers by reducing the number of people who are at risk of disease. When enough people are vaccinated, diseases tend to stop circulating. Children are particularly at risk for disease in a school, preschool, or childcare due to outbreaks of disease that may occur more frequently in crowded settings.

There are other vaccine-preventable diseases that can also harm your child—like hepatitis A, HPV (which causes cancer), and influenza. These are not required for schools and childcare for different reasons. For example, flu vaccine is not given year-round and may not be available at the start of a school year. However, because these diseases can cause serious illness vaccination is recommended.

What will provide the best protection from disease?

By following the recommended immunization schedule children receive the best protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. This also provides the most complete protection for the entire community which ensures schools, preschools, and childcare settings are protected.