

Recommended Vaccines for Health Care Personnel

Health care personnel (HCP) are at risk for exposure to serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. To protect HCP, it is important to reduce the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition to protecting employees, ensuring that they are up-to-date with recommended vaccines will: decrease the potential of employee furlough, reduce the need and cost for post-exposure prophylaxis of patients/residents/HCP, and help ensure an efficient exposure response. Good vaccine coverage among employees will also protect the health of patients and visitors.

Health care personnel includes physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, emergency medical personnel, dental professionals, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, environmental service workers, pharmacists, hospital volunteers, and administrative staff.

Vaccine	Recommendation
Varicella (chickenpox)	<p>If no proof of immunity, HCP need two doses of varicella vaccine, at least 28 days apart. Proof of immunity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documentation of prior vaccination. ▪ Clinician diagnosis or serological verification of a history of varicella or herpes zoster (shingles).
Hepatitis B	<p>If previously unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, HCP needs to complete a two or three-dose series depending on the vaccine product. Obtain anti-HBs serologic testing 1–2 months after final dose for HCP who perform tasks that may involve exposure to blood or body fluids.</p> <p>Employers may require anti-HBs testing of HCP upon hire despite a record of hepatitis B vaccination in infancy or childhood. A negative anti-HBs test performed years after vaccination does not distinguish responders from non-responders due to waning immunity. It is recommended that HCPs get tested, and if the anti-HBs is below 10 mIU/mL, they should receive an additional dose of hepatitis B vaccine and be re-tested 1-2 months later.</p>
Influenza (flu)	Annual vaccination.
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	<p>HCP need documentation of two MMR given at least 28 days apart unless they have proof of immunity. Proof of immunity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine. ▪ Laboratory evidence of immunity. ▪ Laboratory confirmation of disease. ▪ HCP Born before 1957: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Verification of immune status may depend on the risk of exposure to measles within the facility. ▪ Consider getting vaccinated anyway.
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HCP need a one-time dose of Tdap as soon as possible if there has been no Tdap previously administered (regardless of when previous dose of Td was received). ▪ Td boosters every 10 years. ▪ All pregnant people, including pregnant HCP should get a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy, preferably at 27-35 weeks gestation.
Meningococcal ACWY and B serogroups	<p>Vaccinate microbiologists that are routinely exposed to <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> isolates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A dose of MenACWY; and boost every 5 years if risk continues. ▪ The two or three-dose series of Men B (depending on product used).

Managing exposures in health care personnel

Use these resources to help manage a health care personnel exposure to certain vaccine-preventable diseases.

- [Ensuring Immunity to Varicella in Healthcare Workers](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/varicella/hcp/hcwimmunity.html)
(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/varicella/hcp/hcwimmunity.html)
- [Managing measles exposures in health care workers](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/control.html)
(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/control.html)
- [Follow-up recommendations for pertussis exposures in the health care setting](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/hcp/hcsettingexp.html)
(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/hcp/hcsettingexp.html)
- [Prevention of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the ACIP](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6701a1.htm)
(www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6701a1.htm)
- [NCCC: PEP Quick Guide for Bloodborne Pathogen Exposures](https://nccc.ucsf.edu/clinical-resources/pep-resources/pep-quick-guide-for-exposures/) (<https://nccc.ucsf.edu/clinical-resources/pep-resources/pep-quick-guide-for-exposures/>)

More information and resources

To learn more about vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits and potential risks associated with the vaccines, go to:

- [Immunize.org: Vaccine Information Statements \(VISs\) Overview](http://www.immunize.org/vaccines/vis/about-vis/) (www.immunize.org/vaccines/vis/about-vis/)
- [Vaccine Preventable Diseases](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/vpds.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/vpds.html)

We are here to help! Please contact us at 651-201-5414 if you have questions about infection control, immunization recommendations, or responding to a diagnosis or exposure of a vaccine-preventable disease.

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www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.