

## Immunizations to Protect Your Child



### Why are vaccines (immunizations) so important?

Vaccines are one of the best ways to help keep your child healthy so they can learn and grow. Vaccines can prevent diseases like tetanus, polio, hepatitis, measles and more. Some parents worry about vaccinations. They are safe. Most children have very little pain with vaccines. Talk with your health care provider if you have concerns.

### Why are we checking your child's immunization records?

Looking at immunization records is a part of each child's visit. Wisconsin has a computer database called the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). Providers enter all vaccines that are given in the WIR. You can check your child's records at <http://dhfsWIR.org>. Use your child's full name, Social Security number and birth date.

### How do I know which vaccines are needed?

Vaccines are given based on age. We will look in the WIR and let you know if your child needs any vaccines. Some may be given before your child goes home from the hospital. Most will need to be given at your clinic or through your local health department. Work with your health care provider to keep track of vaccines and schedule visits when needed. Let us know if you need help finding a place to get your child's vaccines.

### Your child's WIR record shows:

- All immunizations are up to date. That means all vaccines have been given based on your child's age today. More vaccines will be needed as your child grows. Staff will tell you when you should call to set up your child's next vaccine shots.
- Immunizations may be needed based on the WIR. The WIR may not be complete if your child had vaccines in the last month. It takes time to get them entered. Check with your health care provider about these vaccines.

Be sure to keep your own immunization record for daycare and school. They may ask you to show proof of immunizations. Yearly flu vaccines are also important.

## Where can I get vaccines and more information?

These resources can be helpful:

- If your child needs vaccines, talk with your health care provider first.
- Your local health department can give the vaccines free or for a lower cost. Local health dept. clinics can be found at:  
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/counties/countyalphalist.htm>.
- If you have a state insurance care, call the 800 number on the back of the card. Each BadgerCare agency has someone called an advocate. This person can help you find a regular health care provider.
- The Children's Medical Group Referral number is (414) 266-6404 if you need a primary care practice.
- In Milwaukee, there are 6 Federally Qualified Health Centers. These centers give free or low cost health care and immunizations:
  - Health Care for the Homeless (414) 727-6320
  - Westside Healthcare Centers (414) 935-8000
    - Hillside Family Health Center
    - Lisbon Avenue Health Center
  - Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center (414) 760-3900
  - MLK Heritage Health Center (414) 372-8080
  - Sixteenth Street Community Health Center (414) 672-1353
- If your child has special health care needs and you need a primary care doctor for your child, call the Daniel M. Soref Family Resource Center. Call (414) 266-6333 and ask for a resource specialist.
- Call 1-800-CDCinfo or (800) 232-4636 for a 24-hour vaccine hot line in Spanish and English.
- Websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines> and

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that are not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**