

**HEAD START POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Policy Number: HL 2	Effective Date:	Page #1 of 2
HS Program Director Approval Date:	Policy Council Approval Date:	Notes: Bases on TN Day Care Licensing Requirements
Agency Director Approval Date:	Sponsoring Board Approval Date:	
Proposed Effective Date:	Relates to CFR 1304.20(a)	Draft Number:

SUBJECT: Immunizations

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE: The program makes determinations regarding children's health status within 90 calendar days of the child's enrollment date and assists parents of children who are not current on age-appropriate preventive and primary care in bringing their child up-to-date.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE:

Each child enrolled must have proof of being age-appropriately immunized against the following : diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio (DTP vaccine), measles, mumps, rubella (MMR vaccine), haemophilus influenza type B (HIB vaccine), hepatitis B (HBV vaccine), and the chickenpox (varicella) vaccine. An immunization record that is signed or stamped by a certified health care provider is needed. The typical number of vaccines needed by all children entering our program include four DPTs, three polios (OPV or IPV), one MMR, four HIB vaccines, three hepatitis B (HBV) vaccines, and one chickenpox (varicella) vaccine. Children with these vaccines are considered up-to-date. *The HIB vaccine can be tricky.* If a child did not receive the first vaccine at the appropriate time or missed a dose, he or she may not require the four. The center FPAs should consult with the Head Start nurse/Health Manager for guidance if a child has less than four HIB vaccines. If a child is behind on his or her immunizations, then the parent must get an appointment for the child to obtain the needed immunizations as soon as possible. The parent will need to provide proof of the appointment in order for the child to attend the center. If the child is behind on immunizations but none can currently be given due to required time intervals between doses, then the child may attend, but we must have documentation from the health care provider when the next dose is due. If immunizations, required by state licensing for day care, are not continued in a timely way by the parent, the child may be excluded from the Head Start center until up-to-date. (The child could still receive Head Start services in the home, until brought up-to-date). Exceptions to the required immunization will be made only if, 1) a physician or the health dept. provides a signed, dated statement giving a medical reason why the child should not be given a specific immunization, or 2) the child's parent provides a signed written statement that immunizations conflict with his/her

religious beliefs.

Parents of children who turn four years old are reminded and encouraged to have their children immunized with booster shots of DPT, polio, and MMR. These booster shots are given to children between the ages of four and six. Some health care providers prefer to wait till the child turns five or six before giving the vaccines. Therefore some children will not receive the boosters before they leave the Head Start program.

The FPA and the Head Start nurse/Health Manager will track (from reports generated off ChildPlus) the child's immunizations and will assist the parent, as needed, in obtaining the vaccines for the Head Start child. The FPA will also work with the parent to help ensure that siblings of Head Start enrollees are up-to-date on their immunizations.

The FPA will inform parents that as immunizations are updated on their children that the Head Start program needs documentation of the vaccines received for Day Care licensing and tracking purposes.

The pneumococcal vaccine (Pevnar), which protects children against invasive pneumococcal diseases caused by the Streptococcus Pneumoniae bacterium such as bacterial meningitis and bacteremia (infection in the blood stream), is available for infants and children, but not required at the present time for program attendance.