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## Frequently Asked Questions

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## About Immunizations

### What's the difference between "Required" and "Recommended" immunizations?

Some, but not all *recommended* childhood vaccines are *required* by California law and regulations in order to attend school. Under the California School Immunization Law (California Health and Safety Code, Sections 120325-120375), to protect the public's health, children are required to receive certain immunizations in order to attend public and private elementary and secondary schools, child care centers, family day care homes, nursery schools, day nurseries and developmental centers.

Not all *recommended* immunizations are required for school, but it is still important that children receive all of them. Talk to your doctor about other recommended vaccines, including flu vaccine every year.

### What is the "recommended" immunization schedule?

The [recommended schedule](#) lists the age or age range when each vaccine or series of shots is recommended. The pediatric immunization recommendations in the United States are developed by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), typically in coordination with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

### What if I can't afford vaccines or my insurance doesn't cover them?

- The [California Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) Program](#) provides vaccines for [eligible children](#) at no cost. Find a VFC provider in your area using the [locator](#).
- Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a [Federally Qualified Health Center \(FQHC\)](#), or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) under an approved deputization agreement.
- Many [local health departments](#) offer free or low-cost vaccines.
- Your [local pharmacy](#) may also give Tdap and other vaccines for a fee.

### More Questions and Answers About

- [7th Grade Tdap Requirement for Parents | Spanish | for Schools and Providers](#)
- [New Law \(SB277\)](#)
- [Conditional Admission](#)
- [Transitional Kindergarten | Spanish](#)