



## Improving Immunization Rates in West Virginia Recommended Vaccinations in Child Day Care Facilities

**Position:** The West Virginia Immunization Network (WIN) supports that all day care providers require age-appropriate immunizations as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for admission to the day care program unless contraindications exist for medical reasons.

*Adopted: WIN Membership; September 25, 2007*

**Rationale:** Vaccination is one of the greatest achievements of medicine and has spared millions of children the effects of devastating diseases. Routine immunization at the appropriate age is the best means of preventing vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunization is important for children in day care because preschool-aged children currently have the highest age-specific incidence of disease (specifically measles, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), Varicella (chickenpox) and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib B). Transmission of these diseases causes absenteeism of the child and the working parent, resulting in increased health care costs and work absenteeism. **In addition, an outbreak could require that the day care facility be closed to contain the spread of the disease resulting in a loss of revenue.**

Because the ACIP frequently updates the recommended immunization schedule, WIN recommends that parents and child care providers consult with the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health for up-to-date information **each year**. An annual review of immunization records of enrollees could decrease acquisition and transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases within and outside the program. Staff members and adult volunteers are advised to acquire all recommended immunizations to enrich the community immunity for those enrollees that cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Children who have not received recommended age-appropriate immunizations before enrollment should be immunized as soon as possible. The child's physician or primary care provider should be contacted by the parent or guardian to discuss a catch-up strategy.

In addition, WIN encourages West Virginia licensed child care programs to take the opportunity to provide parents with information regarding managing and promoting the health of their children, which should include information on how to protect their children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Resources:** *Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases; Red Book; AAP Family childcare Facility Licensing Requirements 2007*  
*WVDHHR Legislative Rules Title 78, series 18*