

Immunizations are the best protection against serious diseases. Vaccines are safe and effective and were developed to protect individuals from dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases.

Unfortunately, some children fall behind in getting their age-specific immunizations required for child care and school attendance.

According to Missouri regulation, children who have not received immunizations required for child care and school attendance cannot attend until their immunizations are up-to-date. However, a child is allowed to attend if the required immunization series has begun and an appointment for the next dose is scheduled. This immunization appointment must be documented on an in progress card and filed with the child care facility or school.

The appointment must be kept and an updated immunization record must be provided to the child care facility or school. If the appointment is not kept, the child is no longer in progress and is noncompliant and cannot attend child care or school.

An in progress exemption can be obtained from the local health department or a physician. The in progress card must be signed by a physician, public health nurse or designee and filed with the school administrator or child care facility.

Immunizations may save your child's life.