



# Immunization Tips from the CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/immuniz-records.htm>

## 1. Where can I get my (or my child's) immunization records?

There is no central repository of vaccination records. The only records that exist are the ones you or your parents were given when the vaccines were administered and the ones in the medical record of the doctor or clinic where the vaccines were given. Sometimes schools hold the vaccination records of children who attended, but these records are usually not kept for more than a year or two. If you cannot locate your personal record or the record from your doctor, it may be necessary to repeat some of the vaccines or arrange blood tests (titers) to determine your immunity.

## 2. Where can I look for existing immunization records?

- Try calling your local or state health department immunization program.
- Sometimes schools hold the vaccination records, but these records are generally not retained after a student leaves the school district or graduates.
- Look for family records such as a baby book.
- Check for records with your doctor or public health clinic. Keep in mind, immunization records are maintained for a limited number of years and then usually only by the medical provider who actually administered the vaccines.
- Many colleges provide vaccinations. Contact your college's medical services department (student health) for further information. DMACC Health Specialist/Nurse: 515-964-6352
- Check your military records for immunization information.
- Check with your employer's HR Department.

## 3. Who is responsible for keeping immunization records?

- In most states, it is the responsibility of the parents of school-aged children to provide vaccination records to the health department and to schools.
- Doctor's offices and clinics store records of children's vaccinations and the dates they were received only for a few years. In most states, children are not allowed to enter school or childcare unless they can prove that they meet all [school immunization requirements](#).
- Your doctor or clinic will be happy to give you an immunization record form for your use. Bring this record with you whenever you take your child to the doctor or clinic, and ask the doctor to sign and date the form each time a vaccination is given. That way, you can be sure that the immunization information is current and correct.
- Finally, make sure you know if your doctor participates in an [immunization registry](#). However, keep in mind that very few registries existed prior to the mid-1990's.

### **IRIS – Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System**

IRIS is Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System.  
Name and SS# is required for record access.

<https://iris.iowa.gov/IRISPRDJ/portallInfoManager.do>