

## Immunizations: Protect Your Child

### Why are vaccines so important?

Vaccines protect children from serious diseases that can be prevented. They help keep children healthy so they can learn and grow. Some parents have worries about immunizations. Vaccines are safe. Talk with your health care provider if you have concerns. Most children have only minor discomfort with vaccines.

### Why are we checking your child's immunization records?

We are starting to look at immunization records as part of each hospital stay and clinic visit. The state has a computer database called the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) for providers to enter all vaccines that are given. You can check your child's records at <http://dhfsWIR.org> using their full name, Social Security number, and birth date.

### How do I know which vaccines are needed?

We will let you know if your child is missing vaccines based on their age and the WIR. Some vaccines may be available at the hospital. Others need to be given at your clinic or through your local health department. Work with your health care provider to keep track of vaccines and schedule visits when needed. A regular clinic called a medical home can also help you make sure your child stays up to date with vaccines. Let us know if you need help finding a medical home. If you have a state insurance card, you can also call the 800 number on the back for help with a medical home.

#### Today your child's WIR record shows:

- All immunizations are up to date. That means all shots have been given based on your child's age today. More vaccines will be needed as your child grows. Staff will tell you when you should call to set up your child's next vaccination.
- Immunizations may be needed based on the WIR. The WIR may not be complete if your child just had vaccines in the last month, as it takes time to get them entered. Check with your health care provider about these vaccines.

Be sure to keep your own immunization record for when daycare centers and schools ask you to show proof of immunizations. Yearly flu shots are also important.

### Where can I get vaccines if my insurance doesn't cover them?

Your local health department can give vaccines free or for a lower cost.

### Resources

Call 1-800-CDCinfo or 800-232-4636 for a 24-hour vaccine hot line in Spanish and English.

Websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines> and <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/immunizations.cfm>

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**