

Important Immunization Information

Each year, schools are required by DHEC to turn in a report regarding immunization compliance for its enrolled students. Current, up to date, immunization records are a requirement even if your child is doing temporary remote or virtual learning this school year. Per DHEC guidelines, students must be in compliance within 30 days of starting school. If a student is not in compliance with having a valid certificate or exemption on file, the school administrator is required by law to exclude the student from school and/or discontinue access to the online learning environment until a valid certificate or exemption is on file for the student. Due to the irregular start of school this year, DHEC is allowing an additional grace period to the deadline. Updated immunization records need to be submitted by **October 1**. If you are unable to get your child in for immunizations by this deadline, proof of a scheduled appointment must be provided.

Where to go for immunizations?

-All pediatrician's offices offer immunizations usually by appointment

-Shifa Clinic (free clinic)

1092 Johnnie Dodds BLVD Suite 108, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Ph: (843)-352-4580

Fax: (843)-375-9063

The parent must fill out an application online

<https://www.icnarelief.org/shifaclinics#> Go to patients and then pediatric form.

They must sign as guardians and complete the form and attach the ID, proof of income and residence of one of the parents. After they submit the form, they should call 843-352-4580 in order to confirm that everything is ok and the child will be included in a waiting list.

-Fetter HealthCare Network

51 Nassau Street

Charleston, SC 29403

Phone: 843-722-4112 | Fax: 843-722-4802

Families will need to complete forms and submit proof of income. If they cannot afford immunizations, the family can state that. They are a federal health clinic and can assist when needed.

- Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

To schedule an appointment at a DHEC clinic call: 1-855-472-3432 (1-855-4SC-DHEC).

Health Departments

Northwoods Public Health Clinic

2070 Northbrook Blvd A-20
North Charleston, SC 29406
(843) 953-4300

Goose Creek Clinic

406 Westview Drive
Goose Creek, SC 29445
(843) 572-3313 or 572-7818
(843) 572-6812 fax

Summerville Clinic

500 N. Main Street
Summerville, SC
(843) 832-0041
(843) 851-9735 fax

Flu Vaccinations

All of these places should also be offering influenza vaccines as well. It is strongly recommended by the CDC for children ages 6 months and older to receive a flu vaccination each year. This year is more important than ever because of the presence of COVID-19.

The CDC states:

Ensuring that people continue or start getting routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for protecting people and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks, including flu. Routine vaccination prevents illnesses that lead to unnecessary medical visits and hospitalizations, which further strain the healthcare system.

For the upcoming flu season, flu vaccination will be very important to reduce flu because it can help reduce the overall impact of respiratory illnesses on the population and thus lessen the resulting burden on the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A flu vaccine may also provide several individual health benefits, including keeping you from getting sick with flu, reducing the severity of your illness if you do get flu and reducing your risk of a flu-associated hospitalization.