

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Many children in Alaska missed well-child visits and vaccinations over the past few years. Now is a great time to get kids caught up on vaccinations. Making sure your child sees their health care provider for well-child visits is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and the community. Even if you're a little behind it's easy to get caught up!

Prevention is our best protection. Children need important vaccines that protect them against serious diseases. Some diseases spread easily and quickly and can cause death or serious health problems. Set them up for a long and healthy life by staying up to date on their vaccines.

If you have questions, that's a good thing. As parents, determining how best to protect your children can be overwhelming and confusing. Vaccines are recommended for use only after careful and detailed reviews by scientists, doctors, and other health care professionals. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue to monitor vaccine safety and effectiveness after they are recommended for use. Here are some resources where you can find more information on vaccines:

- American Academy of Pediatrics – “All About the Recommended Immunization Schedule”: <https://healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Recommended-Immunization-Schedules.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – “Common questions about vaccines”: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/FAQs.html>
- State of Alaska Immunization Program – “Vaccine Information for Parents”: Program <https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Pages/parents.aspx>

Talk with your child's health care provider to find out which vaccines they need. To keep track of your child's vaccination history you can request a copy of their vaccination record from their health care provider. You may also use the Docket app to access your and your family's vaccine records on a smartphone or computer. Learn more at vaccinationrecords.alaska.gov.

Need help finding a clinic? Public Health Centers, Tribal Health Clinics and the providers listed at the following webpage do not charge for the cost of vaccines given to children, but may charge a visit or office fee: <https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/iz/Documents/ssv/Statesuppliedvaccineproviders.pdf> If you cannot pay these fees, you can ask if they will waive the cost. To find a clinic or health center that offers vaccines, go to vaccinate.alaska.gov.

Questions about immunizations? Talk to your health care provider or call the Alaska Immunization Helpline: Anchorage: 907-269-8088; Toll Free: 1-888-430-4321

Sincerely,

[INSERT SCHOOL, CHILD CARE, BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME]

