



# CDC Vaccination Schedule Update

Missouri Guidance for Health Care Partners

*As of Feb. 26, 2026*

## Summary

Recent updates from the CDC and ACIP regarding childhood immunizations have caused confusion, but, similar to other states, Missouri's immunization requirements for school and child care/preschool children are governed by state regulations and remain unchanged.

What did change? The CDC has moved from one list of recommended childhood vaccines for all, to three lists: 1) routinely recommended for all, 2) recommended for high-risk, and 3) recommended with shared clinical decision making (SCDM). While all vaccines previously recommended for all children are still listed, some are now listed as "recommended for high-risk" or "recommended with SCDM."

In order to provide some clarity, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Board of Nursing have created this joint informational update. For questions regarding school and child care/preschool immunization requirements, please reach out to the Department of Health and Senior Services at (573) 751-6124 or [info@health.mo.gov](mailto:info@health.mo.gov). For questions regarding nursing scope of practice, please reach out to the Missouri State Board of Nursing at (573) 751-0073 or [nursingpractice@pr.mo.gov](mailto:nursingpractice@pr.mo.gov).

- **Missouri immunization requirements unchanged:** Missouri school and child care immunization requirements remain as established by state regulations. Schools and child care centers should continue following Missouri-specific rules available on official state websites.
  - [School immunization requirements](#)
    - [19 CSR 20-28.010 rules](#) for school-age children pertain to all children enrolled in attending Missouri public, private, parochial, or parish schools.
  - [Child care and preschool immunization requirements](#)
    - [19 CSR 20-28.040 rules](#) for child care/preschool pertain to all children enrolled in attending Missouri public, private, or parochial day care centers, preschools, or nursery schools.

- **CDC recommendations versus mandates:** The CDC/ACIP provides immunization recommendations but does not set or require immunization mandates for schools or child care settings in each state, including in Missouri. Rather, each state in the country follows its own vaccination policy.
- **Missourians encouraged to consult their own health care providers:** Health care providers are best equipped to advise their own patients regarding vaccines.
- **Shared clinical decision-making (SCDM) explained:** SCDM vaccinations involve individualized decisions between health care providers and patients or guardians, requiring informed consent and discussion of risks and benefits. Health care providers include physicians, nurses, physician assistants and pharmacists.
  - Registered nurses (RNs) may administer vaccines under individual or standing orders from a professional licensed by a MO state regulatory board to prescribe medications and treatments. For SCDM vaccines, the standing order may contain a detailed clinical algorithm and/or specify that the registered nurse engage in SCDM. RNs routinely engage in SCDM as part of their nursing practice across multiple patient care issues.
  - Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) may follow approved protocols and provide education but require RN or physician oversight for clinical decisions. Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) may administer vaccines under individual or standing orders approved by a professional licensed by a MO state regulatory board to prescribe medications and treatments. For SCDM, their standing order must contain a detailed clinical algorithm with an option to seek additional information if needed from an RN or physician.
  - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRNs) in Missouri must collaborate with physicians for standing orders or protocols.
- **Vaccines for Children Program:** Missouri DHSS' immunization program is working to stop vaccine-preventable diseases by providing vaccines to children and adolescents who cannot pay for them through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. There are no changes to this program at this time.
- **Insurance Coverage for Vaccines:** There is no indication at this time that the insurance coverage for vaccines (regardless of current CDC categorization) will change, according to the national Department of Health and Human Services.

## FAQS

**Q: What is the definition of shared clinical decision-making (SCDM) in terms of vaccinations?**

A: The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) defines SCDM vaccinations (on a webpage dated Jan. 7, 2025) as “individually based and informed by a decision process between the health care provider and the patient or parent/guardian.”

Immunization is always an informed consent process, which should have always included a discussion of risks, benefits, assessment for contraindications, and an opportunity for questions for each individual patient.

**Q: Do RNs always need an individual order or standing order to give a vaccine, even when the vaccines are recommended by guidelines?**

A: Yes. Pursuant to 335.016(16)(C) RSMo, nurses may only administer “medications and treatments as prescribed by a person licensed by a state regulatory board to prescribe medications and treatments.”

**Q: Nurses are subject to the current acceptable standard of care, but is there a statute/regulation stipulating CDC-specific guidelines must be followed instead of vaccine guidelines from other national professional associations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) or the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)?**

A: There is no nursing regulation requiring adherence to one specific vaccine guideline over another. As noted above, nurses may administer medications and treatments prescribed by a person licensed by a state regulatory board to prescribe medications and treatments.

**Q: If the standing order includes a detailed clinical outlined algorithm and the patient is eligible, then is it permissible for the RN to follow that algorithm and give the vaccine?**

A: Yes, if the algorithm has been approved by a physician.

**Q: Is the nurse at jeopardy regarding his or her licensure for using a standing order tool, such as a clinical outlined algorithm to serve as SCDM?**

A: No, if the nurse has followed the algorithm. There should be a reference to the algorithm in each patient's chart, like with any other standing order.

**Q: In Missouri, can an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) issue a standing order or protocol for a clinic or patient population? Or does it have to be a physician?**

A: APRNs are not independent practitioners in Missouri. How this would be addressed must be included in the collaborative practice arrangement between the APRN and the Missouri-licensed physician. It's possible that the APRN develops the protocol or standing order, but the collaborating physician must approve or agree with the content.

**Q: When a physician chooses to write a standing order for a vaccine categorized as SCDM per the CDC, can that order delegate the SCDM to a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)? Or if the standing order includes a detailed clinical algorithm and the patient is eligible, is it fine for the LPN to follow that algorithm and administer the vaccine?**

A: LPNs deliver nursing care under the direction of a person licensed by a state regulatory board to prescribe medications and treatments or an RN. LPNs may teach patients or families based on teaching protocols approved by a physician or RN. LPNs may follow explicit protocols, standing orders, etc., as described above. An RN must approve a plan of care for nursing care of a patient. An LPN may not make that decision on their own. The direction of care does not require direct oversight. For example, a family comes in with questions about vaccines. An LPN may provide approved education to the family. If the family has additional questions, an RN or physician will be contacted for guidance, or they may be referred to their PCP if needed.