



Lejeune-New River Child & Youth Program (CYP)

Influenza Immunization Policy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2018-2019 Edition

These policies were developed in collaboration with healthcare professionals, parents of children enrolled in Child and Youth Program (CYP) facilities, and MCCS personnel in August 2017. Policies are compliant with MCO 1710.30.

When is the influenza vaccine due for the 2018-2019 influenza season?

- The first dose of influenza immunization will be due on Friday, 14 December 2018. CYP will exclude children who are non-compliant with receiving the first dose of the 2018-2019 influenza immunization from care on Monday, December 17 2018 if an approved exemption is not on file.
- If a shortage of influenza vaccine occurs in the local area, the date will be moved to a later date, as needed, following consultation with the Naval Medical Center's Immunization Clinic.
- **New for 2018:** School aged children attending School Age Care (before/after/out-of-school care) will be required to submit proof of influenza vaccine by Friday, 14 December 2018. School Age Care programs will exclude children who are non-compliant with submitting documentation from care on Monday, 17 December 2018, if an approved exemption is not on file.
- If the influenza vaccination is obtained after 14 December 2018 and a child is excluded due to non-compliance, the child may return to care once the influenza immunization has been received. Parent will be responsible for childcare fees during the exclusion period to maintain the child's space.

What exemptions are approved?

- CYP will approve exemptions for children for all vaccination requirements with religious reasons when a **signed and notarized** statement is provided.

***Required form:** *Religious Exemption Affirmation for Immunizations/Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement for Unimmunized Children Attending a Child & Youth Program Facility* is available at the front desk of each facility.





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- CYP will approve exemptions for children or adult employees from the influenza immunization for medical reasons with written documentation from a primary care provider that a medical contraindication or medical precaution to the influenza vaccination exists.

***Required form:** *Immunization Medical Exemption Form* is available at the front desk of each facility. A note from a medical provider may substituted and will be attached to the required form.

What is an outbreak of influenza as defined by CYP?

- CYP defines an influenza outbreak as 2 or more cases of influenza or influenza-like illness within a facility within one week as reported verbally or by provider documentation, to facility personnel by parents of enrolled children or by employees.
- CYP defines a *widespread* influenza outbreak as 10% of the population of a facility diagnosed with influenza within a week, as confirmed by a laboratory test or diagnosed by a medical provider and reported to facility management.
- Family Child Care Providers may use different measurements due to their small size, and Family Child Care Providers may choose to close, or be directed to close during an outbreak in which the provider and or members of the provider's immediate family are diagnosed with influenza. Parents are advised to have conversations with your provider to make a plan for back-up childcare in the event of an influenza outbreak.

When are children with approved exemptions excluded from care?

- During an outbreak of influenza in a CYP Child Development Center (CDC), non-immunized children with an approved medical exemption will be allowed to remain in care. During a *wide-spread* outbreak of influenza (diagnosed and reported cases in 10% of children and/or employees of a facility within one week), children who are medically exempt from receiving an influenza vaccination will be excluded from care.
- During an outbreak of influenza in a CYP CDC, unimmunized children with an approved religious exemption will be allowed to remain in care. During a *wide-spread* outbreak of influenza, children with an approved religious exemption will be excluded from care.
- During an outbreak of influenza in a CYP CDC, unimmunized infants (6 months old or less) will be allowed to remain in care. During a *wide-spread* outbreak of influenza, unimmunized infants will be allowed to remain in care, and the CYP will work with Infection Control and Preventive Medicine to establish a protected cohort staffed with employees who do not work in other areas of the facility to reduce the risk for further spread of illness.





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- During an outbreak of influenza in a CYP CDC, children who have received 1 dose of influenza vaccination but who need 2 doses for full protection will be allowed to remain in care provided that less than 30 days has passed since the first influenza immunization dose was received. Once more than 30 days has passed, or on 14 January, whichever is later, children who are not fully immunized for influenza will be excluded from care, regardless of outbreak status of the facility.

Are all CYP employees required to receive an influenza vaccination?

- Yes, per MCO 1710.30, all CYP employees must receive an influenza vaccination. The only exemptions that are approved are for documented medical contraindications or precautions or religious reasons per a request for an accommodation process.
- During influenza season (generally 1 October through 1 April) employees without a current influenza immunization with an approved exemption will wear a mask during influenza season when working in a classroom or area in which influenza-like illnesses have been reported in the last 7 days. Employees with a mask will remain in the facility conducting their regular assignment as long as they remain symptom-free. Employees who are exempt from receiving the influenza vaccination will be reassigned during a widespread outbreak of influenza to work not in direct contact with enrolled children.

How long do exclusions from care last?

- CYP CDCs that experience a widespread outbreak (10% of the population of a facility diagnosed with influenza within a week, as confirmed by a laboratory test or diagnosed by a medical provider and reported to facility management) will exclude unimmunized children (ages 6 months or more) through the end of flu season (1 April or later, if influenza cases are continuing beyond that date).

If my child is excluded from care, can he/she attend a different child development center?

- No. Unimmunized children who are excluded from care may not transfer to another facility or Family Child Care Provider. The exclusion period will last until Monday, 2 April if influenza activity has stopped. Exclusion periods may be extended if influenza activity is continuing. Parents will continue to be billed to hold a childcare space for their child. Fees must be paid to avoid disenrollment. Families may choose to disenroll by providing a 2 week notice. To re-enroll, families may utilize www.militarychildcare.com to make a request for care.





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What if my child receives an influenza immunization after being excluded from care?

- If the influenza vaccination is obtained during the exclusion period, the child may return to care after receiving the influenza vaccination. Unimmunized children with a medical exemption may be permitted to return to care earlier with documentation from a licensed medical provider; return decisions will be made on a case by case basis in consult with the CYP nurse or Preventive Medicine, if necessary. Parents should note that vaccinations may not be effective for up to 14 days after being received. Parents should consult with their medical care provider about risks of returning to care before antibodies have fully developed.

How will I be notified of reported cases of influenza in my child's facility?

- CYP CDCs will notify parents/guardians of influenza outbreak or widespread outbreak utilizing a variety of methods, including posting notifications in facility, in classrooms, and in individual cubbies of children enrolled in affected classrooms; phone calls to parents of medically fragile children in affected classrooms as appropriate; and an influenza green, yellow, red light sign posted in the facility to notify family of outbreak status (green = 0-1 reported cases of influenza or influenza-like illness case in facility in past week, yellow = 2 or more reported cases of influenza or influenza-like illness in facility in past week, red = 10% of enrolled population with a laboratory confirmed diagnosis of influenza within past week).

Is hourly childcare available during an influenza outbreak?

- Hourly childcare (provided to children who do not regularly attend the facility but who utilize occasional care with a reservation) may be provided during an influenza outbreak or widespread outbreak to children with documentation of influenza vaccination or approved exemption. All immunizations, including the Initial dose of influenza vaccination, must be received/up-to-date prior to a reservation for child care. In the event the influenza vaccination is not received prior to 14 December, the reservation will not be made until the immunization, or documentation is received.
- Patrons experiencing difficulty in obtaining records due to a move or other extenuating circumstance, may be referred on a case-by-case basis, to the facility's nurse for assistance.





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If I am enrolling for the first time, is there a grace period?

- Newly enrolled children typically have up to 30 days to submit vaccination records. During influenza season, however, newly-enrolled children will be required to submit documentation of influenza vaccination prior to starting in care if starting on or after 14 December 2018.

If my child gets the flu, when can he/she return to care?

- CYP CDCs permit children or employees who have been diagnosed with influenza or have experienced symptoms of a “flu-like illness” to return to care or work when symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication, per recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Children must be well enough to participate in regular classroom/outdoor activities.

Please help us reduce the risk of influenza spreading in our facilities.

If your child has a fever and/or flu-like symptoms during flu season, please keep your child at home. If your employer or command requires documentation that your child has stayed home due to flu-like symptoms, we are happy to provide that for you.

