**Multi-cultural parents and Vaccination**

Multi-cultural parents are father and mothers from different countries who speak different language and have different cultural difference. For example, a man from Nigeria married a lady from Kenya. The man speaks a different vernacular language from the Kenyan lady. In Kenya for example there 42 tribes. All these tribes have not only their language, but different culture.

Charter schools are schools which are founded by the government but operated by private owners which are managed by companies. They are not necessarily at the same level with traditional public schools.

Immunization for children in charter schools involves health law requirement for students/ children to get certain vaccines to attend childcare/schools and is funded by public government and controlled by private sector /institutions.

Children in charter schools receive several immunizations at different ages.

The table below shows the child immunization schedule.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MONTHS | AGE(YRS) | VACCINES |
|  | Birth | Hepatitis B (HepB) |
| 1-2 | Hepatitis B (HepB) |
| 2 | Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP); Inactivated poliovirus (IPV); Rotavirus (RV); Haemophiles influenza type B (Hib). |
| 6 | Pneumococcal conjugate (PCU); Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP); Inactivated poliovirus (IPV); Rotavirus (RV); Haemophiles influenza type B (Hib). |
| 6-18 | HepA, IPV Inactivated poliovirus (IPV) |
| 12 | Hepatitis A (HepA) |
| 12-15 | MMR, VAR, Hib, PCV 13 |
| 15-18 | Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP) |
| 18-23 | Hepatitis B (HepB) |
| YEARS | 4-6 | Diphtheria, tetanus, and a cellular pertussis (DTAP) Inactivated poliovirus (IPV) Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Varicella (VAR). |
| 11-12 | DTAP Booster, Human papillomavirus (HPV) |
| 16 | Meningococcal |

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN IN CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Parental involvement has been defined as including behaviors at home as well as at school. Some researchers have defined parental involvement by the location in which involvement takes place, differentiating among home-based involvement, school-based involvement and home-school communication (Barnard, 2004; Manz et al., 2004)

Multicultural parents have an important role to play in immunization of their children in charter schools. Here are some ways that multicultural parents can involve themselves in immunizations for their children in charter schools:

1. **Maintaining a Positive attitude**

Some cultures do not allow immunization to their children. However, parents should not be led by their cultures. They should create a positive attitude towards immunization in their children. This will make their children to accept immunization easily.

1. **Taking the children for immunization & Participation in the activities**

Parents should take their children for immunization at the right time and at the right place without fail. Many charter schools host vaccination clinics where students can receive the vaccines that they need. Parents can participate in these clinics by bringing their children to get vaccinated and by volunteering to help with the clinics.

1. **Creating awareness and staying informed**

Multicultural parents should create awareness in the society about immunization. Parents should educate themselves about the importance of immunizations and the risks of not vaccinating their children. They can consult with their child's healthcare provider or school nurse to learn more about the vaccines that their child needs and when they should be administered.

1. **Advocate for immunization policies**

Parents can advocate for immunization policies at the school and community level. They can work with school administrators, healthcare providers, and community leaders to promote immunizations and ensure that all children have access to the vaccines that they need.

1. **Attend school meetings.**

Parents can attend school meetings to learn about the school's immunization policies and procedures. They can also ask questions and voice any concerns that they may have.

1. **Encourage other parents**:

Multicultural parents can encourage other parents in their community to vaccinate their children. They can share information about the benefits of immunizations and help dispel any myths or misconceptions that other parents may have.

1. Decision-making

Parents are responsible for making decisions about whether to vaccinate their children. However, a growing number of parents are delaying vaccinations or choosing not to vaccinate their children altogether, which increases the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.

1. Primary source of information

Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals are the primary source of information for parents about routine childhood vaccination. Parents trust the recommendations of their healthcare providers over other sources of information. Therefore, healthcare professionals have a critical role in providing accurate and evidence-based information to parents.

1. Communication and education

Healthcare professionals can engage in face-to-face discussions with parents to inform and educate them about vaccination. These discussions can take place on an individual basis or in group settings. Effective communication that is respectful and builds trust can help address parents' concerns and hesitations about vaccination.

1. Providing information and answering questions

Healthcare professionals can answer parents' questions, provide educational materials, and ensure that families have access to accurate and reliable information about vaccines. Parents consider their child's healthcare professionals to be their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines.

Influencing attitudes and behaviors: An appropriately designed information or educational intervention can potentially influence not only parents' knowledge but also their attitudes, perceptions about their peers, sense of self-efficacy, intention to vaccinate, and ultimately, their vaccination behaviors.

. Healthcare professionals can play a role in educating parents and addressing any misconceptions or concerns they may have.

Parent-physician communication: The parent-physician relationship plays a significant role in parents' knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards vaccination. Physicians can improve parents' knowledge and attitudes through effective communication and education.

Overall, parents' involvement and understanding of immunization projects in schools are essential for the success of these initiatives. Healthcare professionals can play a vital role in providing accurate information, addressing concerns, and promoting vaccination to ensure the health and well-being of children.

**In reference to The Avon Grove Charter School (AGCS) in the United States multicultural parents have the following responsibilities:**

**School Regulations**

Pennsylvania Health Law mandates that all students have complete immunization records upon entering school, at any grade.

**For Attendance in All Grades**

Children are required to have on the first day of school:

* 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td)
* 4 doses of polio
* 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (usually given as MMR)
* 3 doses of hepatitis B
* 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox) or evidence of immunity

**Attending 7th Grade**

Children are required to have on the first day of 7th grade:

* 1 additional dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) (if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization)
* 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

**Attending 12th Grade**

Children are required to have on the first day of 12th grade:

* 1 additional dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

Unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have the above vaccines on the first day of school or risk exclusion.

**For Parents of Unvaccinated Children**

* If an outbreak of a communicable disease (such as Chicken Pox or Measles) which your child is not immunized against should occur at AGCS, your child would be excluded from attending school during the incubation period of the disease.

In alignment with recommendations from the Chester County Health Department and based on current PA and CDC protocol, the following exclusion periods for non-immunized students and staff would be in effect should an outbreak occur at Avon Grove Charter School:

California Law AB 354 requires all incoming 7 th grade students to show proof of **Tdap** (pertussis or whooping cough) immunization. New regulations require **2 doses of Varicella** (chickenpox) immunization.

To ensure your child is able to register for 7 th grade and be given priority for classes and electives, submit proof of the required Tdap booster shot and 2nd Varicella shot to the San Jose Charter Academy school office by Friday, April 29, 2022. Time passes quickly; it is highly recommended you make an appointment for your child in the near future.

If you have other children 10 years or older, you may also wish to have them immunized in anticipation of their future 7th grade year.

A list of free or low-cost health clinics in Los Angeles County is provided below or the school office can provide a copy for you.

Parents or guardians of students in any school or childcare facility will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption to a currently required vaccine. (California Law SB 277)

According to the Washington State department of Health multicultural parents must ensure the following before taking their children taking their children to charter schools.

It is important to keep your child up to date on required immunizations for school and childcare. Vaccinations can reduce the severity of disease or prevent disease entirely. Vaccinations play an important role in keeping your child healthy.

**A Statement on Vaccination**

We acknowledge the medical system has had a history of racist and discriminatory practices and beliefs.  This history may make it more difficult for families to trust vaccines or medical professionals.

We want to assure you that Washington state school and child care requirements are handled very differently. [The Washington State Board of Health](https://sboh.wa.gov/) is a diverse group that oversees school and childcare vaccine requirements. They operate under the goal of improving the health and safety of all people in Washington. Many medical professionals are trained to educate families about vaccination. We encourage you to find a trusted medical professional you can talk to if you have questions about vaccination.

**The Basics**

Children entering school, childcare, or other early learning programs are required to have certain vaccinations before they can start. These requirements are put into place to protect children, families, and communities from vaccine preventable diseases. Immunization requirements apply to all enrolled children, including those learning remotely.

The parent or guardian of a child must provide documentation of vaccination or proof of immunity to specific diseases. This requirement is based on the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Immunization Schedule for school or childcare registration and attendance. The specific diseases are listed in the chart below:

* [Chickenpox (Varicella)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/varicella.html)
* [Diphtheria](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/diphtheria.html)
* [German measles (Rubella)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/rubella.html)
* [Haemophiles influenzae type b (Hib)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/hib.html)
* [Hepatitis B](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/hepb.html)
* [Measles](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/measles.html)
* [Mumps](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/mumps.html)
* [Pneumococcal disease](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/pneumo.html)
* [Polio (Poliomyelitis)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/polio.html)
* [Tetanus](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/tetanus.html)

[Whooping Cough (Pertussis)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/pertussis.html)