



TIPS FOR FINDING OLD IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Immunization records often are needed for entry into child-care, kindergarten, school, summer camp, and college or other post-high school training, as well as for future employment and international travel. If you are seeing a new healthcare provider, you will need this information to ensure you receive proper medical care. Providers usually count only those vaccine doses that are documented on a written record or available on a local computerized immunization information system. Unfortunately, no national organization maintains this information. So, if immunization records are lost or not available, you or your child may have to repeat vaccine doses.

The Connecticut Department of Health does not maintain immunization records on adults.

Piecing together old immunization information can be difficult and time-consuming. Here are some tips for reconstructing your immunization history:

Places you may want to check:

- **All previous healthcare providers** – Don't forget vaccination visits you made to local public health departments or neighborhood clinics. Sometimes when physicians retire or a medical practice changes hands, old patient records are sent to a medical record storage company. You may be able to obtain records directly from the company, but you may have to pay a fee.
- **Your home** – Look through your old papers, including baby books and school or camp forms. If you're an adult, don't forget to ask your mother or father if they still have your childhood records.
- **Schools and colleges or other post-secondary institutions** you or your child attended.
- **Previous employers**, including the military.
- **Check out your state's local immunization registry** – Connecticut has a statewide, immunization registry that was established in 1998 that is maintained by the state Department of Public Health called the **Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS)**. **CIRTS began maintaining immunization information on all children born on or after January 1, 1998.** So if your child was born during or after 1998, you might be able to obtain information on your child's immunization history by calling the State Immunization Program at the Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7929. The registry may not have all your child's immunization records, but is still a great place to check. You can obtain additional information about CIRTS by going to the following link at the CT DPH website: www.ct.gov/dph/immunizations.

What if you don't find your records?

In general, both children and adults will need to repeat some vaccines. Although this is time-consuming and inconvenient, it is not harmful to receive additional vaccine doses. For a few vaccines, blood tests can help determine if you're already immune to certain diseases. Your healthcare provider can help you determine exactly what's best.