

## **Vaccination Guidance**

Please see the following [link](#) for the full recommendation from the CDC

### I. Infant and Toddler (ages 2 months to preschool)

A. The following vaccines are generally recommended by the CDC for infants starting at age 2 months:

1. Dtap (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis)
2. Polio
3. HiB (haemophilus influenzae)
4. PCV13 (Pneumococcus)

Dtap, Polio, Hib and PCV are given at two month intervals, which is important to follow for optimal immunity.

Polio is an “inactivated vaccine” meaning that the virus has been killed.

Diphtheria and Tetanus are “toxoid vaccines,” meaning that you are receiving just the toxin that those infections make.

Hib, PCV, and Pertussis are “subunit vaccines” meaning that you are receiving the “protein coat” of the virus or bacterium to train your immune system to recognize the illness.

Tetanus is a common exposure in childhood; treatment for high risk exposures in unvaccinated children with Tetanus Toxoid is expensive and painful.

Pertussis outbreaks have been frequent in our local population in recent years; pertussis can be life-threatening for young children, especially newborns.

Hib and PCV vaccination significantly reduces the risk of hospitalization with pneumonia for young children. Additionally, Haemophilus and Pneumococcus bacteria are common causes of severe ear infections, and vaccination helps reduce the use of antibiotics.

Vaccination for Hepatitis A & B, as well as Rotavirus are considered on a case-by-case basis; however, the overall exposure risk is very low on the Palouse (*Please discuss with your provider*).

B. The following vaccine boosters are generally recommended by the CDC for toddlers starting at 1 year of age:

1. MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)
2. Varicella (“Chicken Pox”)

MMR and Varicella are [“Live-attenuated” vaccines](#), meaning that a person is inoculated with a weakened version of the virus. Live-attenuated vaccines typically induced a stronger immune response, and several days of fevers and malaise should be expected. Tylenol is often given to improve tolerance.

MMR and Varicella are only available as vaccines made from Embryonic Stem Cells (Please see below)

Measles, however, can be a severe illness, with rare but [devastating consequences](#), particularly for very young children and pregnant women.

SFM currently offers Dtap, Polio and Hib (as well as the combination [Pentacel](#)) \*at cost\* through our clinic.

## II. School-Aged Children (ages 4-18)

A. The following vaccine boosters are generally recommended by the CDC before starting Kindergarten (ages 4-6):

1. Dtap: (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis)
2. Polio
3. MMR: (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)
4. Varicella: (“Chicken Pox”)

B. The following vaccines are generally recommended by the CDC before starting 6th grade (ages 11-12):

1. Meningococcus (Menactra):
2. HPV

SFM currently offers Dtap, Tdap, Polio, and Meningococcus (Menactra) \*at cost\* through our clinic.

MMR and Varicella are only available as vaccines made from Embryonic Stem Cells (Please see below)

HPV (Human papillomavirus) is a sexually transmitted virus. People who have no sexual exposures and who are monogamous do not have a risk for

HPV. SFM providers do not routinely advise but may consider HPV vaccination on a case-by-case basis.

III. Vaccine Adjuvants and Preservatives

(Information forthcoming!)

IV. Embryonic Stem Cells

SFM opposes Abortion, and any medical treatments that would purposefully end the life of an unborn child. (Psalm 139:13-16)

MMR and Varicella are only available as vaccines made from Embryonic Stem Cells (tissue taken from children that were aborted). These vaccines (as best as we understand) do not involve the ongoing destruction of unborn children. Grievously, the use of Embryonic Stem Cells to produce vaccines has opened their use to other medical therapies and ongoing harvesting of fetal tissues. There are no available alternatives at this time for MMR or Varicella vaccination.

SFM does not make a recommendation for or against these vaccines. Because embryonic stem cells involve challenging ethical issues for Christians, we do not provide these vaccines at SFM (Read this [link](#) for more information).

*Parents are encouraged to be well informed, both on the risks and benefits of vaccination, particularly if choosing to forgo vaccination.*

Idaho allows parents to sign an [Exemption form](#) (on Medical, Religious, or Philosophical basis)