

## Vaccination and the COVID Pandemic

With the continuing COVID 19 pandemic, there have been many changes in how we conduct our daily lives. Remote learning, take-out ordering, and social distancing were not even thoughts on our minds at the beginning of 2020.

Some of your centers have dealt with closures while other have had to increase services for children at your centers. Your essential businesses have been vital to meet the needs of families that continue to work through these challenging times. We applaud you in your efforts to keep the children and their families' safe while continuing to provide Childcare services.

The one thing that has stayed consistent throughout these past few months is the continuing need to vaccinate NH's children. Here is what the CDC said in a recent MMWR report after finding significant decreases in vaccine orders beginning in March:

“The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder of the importance of vaccination. The identified declines in routine pediatric vaccine ordering and doses administered might indicate that U.S. children and their communities face increased risks for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. Parental concerns about potentially exposing their children to COVID-19 during well child visits might contribute to the declines observed. To the extent that this is the case, reminding parents of the vital need to protect their children against serious vaccine-preventable diseases, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, is critical. As social distancing requirements are relaxed, children who are not protected by vaccines will be more vulnerable to diseases such as measles.”

Retrieved from: MMWR, May 15, 2020, *Effects of the COVID 19 Pandemic on Routine Vaccination Ordering and Administration*, 69(19); 591–593.

Now more than ever, it is important to keep track of the immunizations of the children at your center as the state of NH opens up and more of them may be exposed not only to the Coronavirus, but also other vaccine preventable diseases. Encourage your families to continue to vaccinate at every opportunity even during these challenging times.