

Minnesota Department of Health

## How Do I Pay for My Child's Shots?

Because childhood immunizations are so important, many programs and health insurance plans pay for all or part of these costs:

- The cost of the shot
- The cost of giving the shot
- The cost of the medical visit

If you don't have health insurance or your insurance doesn't pay all the costs of shots:

- You may still be able to get free shots from a doctor's office or clinic. Most Minnesota clinics are part of a program called Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC), which will cover the cost of the shots. The clinic may still charge you for the medical visit and the cost of giving the shots. If you can't afford it, let the clinic know. You may still be able to get the shots.
- You may be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare. These programs will pay for all costs of giving the shots and for the medical visit.

Call the human services agency in your county to find out if you are eligible. If you aren't sure whom to call, call the Minnesota Department of Health at the number below. We will give you the number to call in your county.

If you belong to an HMO (health maintenance organization), all the costs of your child's shots and related medical visits will be covered at your assigned clinic. You won't have to pay anything.

If you have health insurance, it often covers all or part of the costs of immunizations for children. To find out if your insurance will pay for your child's shots, check with your employer or your insurance company's customer service department. The number should be on the back of your insurance card.

Most public health clinics offer free or low-cost shots. For information, call your city or county health department. If you aren't sure whom to call, call the Minnesota Department of Health at the number below. We will give you the number to call in your county.

A couple of other tips:

- Know what your health coverage is before you go to a clinic. Not sure? Call the customer service department of your insurance plan. The number should be on the back of your insurance card.
- Find one doctor or clinic where you can go for all of your child's health needs. That way, your child is more likely to get all the care he or she needs.



Immunization Program  
 P.O. Box 64975  
 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
 651-201-5503, 1-800-657-3970  
[www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize)