



# New Vaccination Criteria for U.S. Immigration

## CDC's Role in Vaccinations for Immigrant and Refugee Populations

CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) sets guidelines for medical exams for people seeking permanent residence in the United States. DGMQ has the legal authority to set health screening standards for immigrants and refugees.

To protect the health of the public, immigrants must complete a medical screening for specific diseases and receive, or show proof of, certain vaccines. Immigrants are screened—

- before coming to the United States, when seeking permanent residence, OR
- in the United States, when changing their visa status to become permanent residents.

## ACIP Recommendations

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a group of vaccine experts who provide written guidance for the vaccination of children and adults in the United States. All ACIP vaccine recommendations for the general public are applied to U.S. immigrants as part of medical screening.

## New Vaccination Criteria for Immigrants

CDC has put new vaccination criteria in place for immigrants as of December 14, 2009. These criteria will allow CDC to decide which ACIP-recommended vaccines should be required for U.S. immigration.

CDC will use these criteria for ACIP-recommended vaccines at regular periods, as needed, to decide which vaccines will be required for U.S. immigration:

- The vaccine must be age-appropriate\* for the immigrant applicant
- The vaccine must protect against a disease that has the potential to cause an outbreak.
- The vaccine must protect against a disease that has been eliminated or is in the process of being eliminated in the United States.

\*ACIP recommends vaccines for a certain age range in the general U.S. public. These ACIP recommendations will be used to decide which vaccines are age-appropriate for immigrant applicants.

## New Vaccination Requirements

Current immigration law requires that immigrants have proof of vaccination against—

- Mumps
- Measles
- Rubella
- Tetanus and diphtheria
- Meningococcal disease
- Pneumococcal disease
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)\*
- Rotavirus
- Varicella
- Influenza
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Zoster\*

\*As of December 14, 2009 the human papillomavirus (HPV) and zoster vaccines are not required for immigrants.

CDC will apply the new vaccination criteria to ACIP-recommended vaccines at regular periods, as needed, to decide which vaccines should be required for immigration.



## Benefits

- Using these criteria will allow CDC to adapt vaccination requirements for U.S. immigrants based on public health needs.
- These criteria are designed for U.S. immigration purposes. As more vaccines become available, CDC will apply these criteria to respond to ACIP vaccination recommendations for the general U.S. public.

## For more information:

Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Health Branch  
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS E-03  
Atlanta, Georgia, USA 30333  
Phone: 404-498-1600  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/panel\\_2007.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/panel_2007.htm)