

The new school year marks a critical time to ensure children are up to date on their recommended immunizations. Medicaid plays a pivotal role in ensuring millions of children have access to lifesaving vaccines and medicines that prevent and help fight disease.

Vaccines and School Health

Preventable infectious diseases pose a significant burden on children's health.



Thousands of school-aged children are hospitalized every year due to flu complications, and many of these cases can be prevented through vaccination.



Tuberculosis, measles, and pertussis are on the rise, with tuberculosis cases in the United States up 16% in 2023.



In 2019, the United States saw its **largest measles outbreak** in 25 years, with 1,282 cases, mostly among unvaccinated children.





Vaccines protect against these and other illnesses, including meningitis, mumps, RSV, and rubella, which can spread quickly in school settings.

Medicaid and Vaccine Access for Students



Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide health coverage to more than 38 million children across the country.

Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening,
Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit
ensures all vaccines recommended by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
are covered by insurance for children under 21.

Vaccines for Children Program

The <u>Vaccines for Children (VFC)</u> program provides vaccines at no cost to children who are enrolled or eligible for Medicaid, uninsured or underinsured, as well American Indian/Alaska Native individuals.

The program is vital for maintaining high vaccination rates among schoolaged children and reducing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities.

Parents: Review your child's immunization records with your pediatrician as they return to school. Confirm your insurance and benefits status to avoid any disruption in care.

Medicaid services offered through schools ensure that children have a healthy start to the academic year and are protected from preventable diseases through timely immunizations.

For more information about how Medicaid school-based services support students, visit: **modernmedicaid.org**.



