



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director
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Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757
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Date: February 09, 2023
To: DCS All Staff
From: Terry Stigdon, Director
Subject: Vaccinations
DCS-23-1

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) is dedicated to identifying safe, appropriate placement options for children entering DCS care. We are grateful to the many Hoosiers who have stepped up to serve as foster parents for children when removal is necessary to ensure their safety.

Our licensing process is intentionally thorough to ensure a foster family can provide a safe environment for a child. It takes into account many factors, including the vaccination history of all household members. DCS will continue to gather vaccination records during the licensing process.

- However, effective Feb. 9, 2023, an otherwise appropriate foster family will not be denied a license solely on the basis of vaccination history.
- The vaccination status of those living in the foster family home will be considered when DCS seeks to place an infant (6 months or younger) or any medically fragile child who is at higher risk for developing a life-threatening illness.

We are in the process of updating our policies to reflect this change.

It is critical our agency continues to recruit high-quality foster parents so children entering care have a higher chance of remaining close to home (in the same school district if school-aged) and near to siblings/other relatives. We are confident this change will further these efforts.

Please direct any questions to the licensing team at Fostercare.licensing@dcs.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Stigdon". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Terry Stigdon, MSN, RN
Agency Head/Director, Indiana Department of Child Services



Children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.