

## Before You Leave Home

### Spouses & Partners

You will want to bring certain official documents with you, including:

- a translated and certified copy of your marriage license
- health records

### Additional Considerations

- There are many resources available on our site, organized by your spouse/partner's Yale affiliation. In the *Preparing for Yale* section you can find information about packing, housing, what to expect upon arrival in the U.S., transportation, and more:
  - [getting started for students](#) [1]
  - [getting started for scholars](#) [2]
- Follow the [OISS](#) [3] and the International Spouses and Partners at Yale through [Facebook](#) [4], and ask fellow internationals any questions you may have.
- Sign up for the [OISS Newsletter](#) [5].

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## Children

If you have children who will be entering school or daycare, bring translated copies of the following documents:

- their medical and immunizations records
- birth certificates
- any school records

You will be required to present these documents before your child can enter school or daycare.

### Schools & Childcare Options

It is advisable to consider the school options for a particular neighborhood before you make a decision about where you will live. Information about public and private schools in New Haven and the surrounding communities may be found below. If you have specific questions about daycare and/or education options for your children, please [contact OISS](#) [6].

- Introduction to the [American educational system](#) [7]
- [U.S. Schools and Childhood Education](#) [8]
- Connecticut State Department of Education - [Programs and Services](#) [9]
- Finding schools
  - [New Haven Public Schools](#) [10]
  - The [Connecticut Education Bug](#) [11]
  - [Great Schools](#) [12]
  - The [Private School Review](#) [13]
- [Yale Babysitting Service](#) [14]
- [Security Awareness](#) [15], [FAQ for Parents](#) [15]
- The [Worklife Program](#) [16] for Yale families contains resources on adoption, breastfeeding, childcare, young children, elder care, marriage, divorce, pregnancy and birth, and pet care, and more.

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- [Yale's Childcare Directory](#) [17]

## Health Requirements for School-Aged Children

Children attending school in the U.S. are required to have a number of immunizations. Be sure to review [requirements depending on the age of your child\(ren\)](#) [18]:

- CDC Immunization guidelines for [children birth to 6 years old](#) [19]
- CDC Immunization guidelines for [children 7-18 years old](#) [20]

There are specific immunization for requirements for children attending CT schools:

- Children attending [daycare or preschool](#) [21]
- Children attending [elementary school through high school](#) [22]

Having these completed prior to your arrival will make school enrollment easier. You will also find other forms and information about school health requirements on the [Connecticut State Department of Education](#) [23] website.

Before leaving home make sure to obtain documentation from your child's doctor, in English, to confirm your child is up to date based on CT Health Department requirements.

Once you are in the U.S., if your child is missing any vaccinations, your doctor in the U.S. will need to administer the immunizations and provide you with documentation. Your child's school might suggest you go to the CT Department of Health for these requirements, but it is better to go to your U.S. doctor instead.

In addition to the immunizations, your child will need provide a health assessment, conducted by a U.S. doctor. Speak with your child's doctor for more information.

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**Source URL:** <https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/family/before-you-leave-home>

### Links

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