

Immunization

Why Immunize?

Children need shots to protect them from dangerous childhood diseases and their serious complications. Shots also protect your other children and could actually help to rid the world of some diseases that have been crippling and killing children for centuries.

Why *Do* Vaccines Help?

Children get sick when their *bodies* are invaded by germs. It is the job of their immune system to protect them from these germs. Vaccines are made from the same germs (or parts of them) that cause disease. The idea behind vaccination is to give children immunity to a disease before it has a chance to make them sick.

How Many Shots Does My Child Need ?

The following vaccinations are recommended by age two and can be given over five visits to a doctor.

4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis vaccine (DTaP), 4 doses of Hib (Influenza) vaccine, 4 doses of pneumococcal vaccine, 3 doses of polio vaccine, 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of measles, mumps & rubella vaccine (MMR), 1 dose of varicella vaccine. (Color version of chart has a schedule for children through 18 years old).

Why Do Children Need So Many Shots?

There are 12 potentially serious diseases that vaccines protect against. At least one shot is needed for each of these diseases, and for some of them several doses are required for the best protection.

Why Immunize at Such an Early Age?

Vaccines are given at an early age because the diseases they prevent can strike at an early age. Children under 5 are especially susceptible to disease because their immune systems have not built up the necessary defenses to fight infection. Some diseases are far more serious or common among infants or young children. Any of them can kill a child. It is easy to forget how serious they are because we don't see them nearly as much as we used to thanks largely to vaccines. Immunizing on time (by age 2) can protect your child from disease and also protect others at school or daycare.

What Will Happen If My Child Doesn't Get These Shots?

If your child goes through life without ever being exposed to any of these diseases, nothing would happen. If your child were exposed to any of these diseases, there is a good chance they would get the

disease. In addition, they could also spread the disease to other children and adults who are not immunized.

Are Shots Safe?

In most cases, vaccines cause no side effects, or only mild reactions such as a low-grade fever or soreness at the injection site. Very rarely, children experience more serious side effects, like allergic reactions. Severe reactions to vaccines occur so rarely that the risk is usually difficult to calculate. If the child is having a severe reaction take him or her to the emergency department right away. The important thing to remember is that the risk *of* getting the disease is much more dangerous than getting the shots.

Do Shots Always Work?

Shots work most of the time, but not always. Most childhood immunizations give immunity to 90%-99% of the children who get them. But occasionally a child will not respond to certain vaccines. This is another reason why it is important for all children to be vaccinated.

Keep A Record

A shot record should be started when your child receives his/her first vaccination and updated with each vaccination visit to help you keep track if you move or change providers.

A Gonzaga graduate nursing student, Christopher Korsgaard, created this informational material. It should be used in consultation with a health care provider.

Vaccination Checklist

Sometimes a child should wait before getting certain vaccines, or should not get them at all. Tell your health care provider if any of these apply to your child.

- > Is your child sick today? (More than a common cold, earache, etc.)
- > Does your child have any severe (life-threatening) allergies?
- > Has your child ever had a severe reaction after a vaccination?

- > Does your child have a weakened immune system (because of diseases such as cancer, or medications such as steroids)?
- > Has your child gotten a transfusion, or any other blood product, recently?
- > Has your child ever had convulsions or any kind of nervous system problem?
- > Does your child not seem to be developing normally?

Additional Links:

- <http://www.childrensvaccine.org/> (Spanish version)
 - <http://www.vaccinesafety.edu/>
 - <http://www.vaccineinformation.org/>
 - <http://www.immunizationinfo.org/>
 - <http://www.partnersforimmunization.org/>
- References:
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/default.htm>

Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule UNITED STATES • 2005

Vaccine ▼	Age ▶	Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	24 months	4-6 years	11-12 years	13-18 years
Hepatitis B ¹		HepB #1	HepB #2		HepB #3			HepB Series					
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis ²			DTaP	DTaP	DTaP	DTaP				DTaP	Td	Td	
Haemophilus influenzae type b ³			Hib	Hib	Hib	Hib							
Inactivated Poliovirus			IPV	IPV	IPV					IPV			
Measles, Mumps, Rubella ⁴						MMR #1				MMR #2	MMR #2		
Varicella ⁴						Varicella			Varicella				
Pneumococcal Conjugate ⁴			PCV	PCV	PCV	PCV			PCV	PPV			
Influenza ⁷						Influenza (Yearly)			Influenza (Yearly)				
----- Vaccines below red line are for selected populations -----													
Hepatitis A ⁶										Hepatitis A Series			

This schedule indicates the recommended ages for routine administration of currently licensed childhood vaccines, as of December 1, 2004, for children through age 18 years. Any dose not administered at the recommended age should be administered at any subsequent visit when indicated and feasible.

Indicates age groups that warrant special effort to administer those vaccines not previously administered. Additional vaccines may be licensed and recommended during the year. Licensed combination vaccines may be used whenever any components of the combination are indicated and other components of the vaccine

are not contraindicated. Providers should consult the manufacturers' package inserts for detailed recommendations. Clinically significant adverse events that follow immunization should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Guidance about how to obtain and complete a VAERS form is available at www.vaers.org or by telephone, 800-822-7067.

- Range of recommended ages
- Preadolescent assessment
- Only if mother HBsAg(-)
- Catch-up immunization



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



The Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule is approved by:
Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices www.cdc.gov/nip/acip
American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org
American Academy of Family Physicians www.aafp.org

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