Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule - United States

Vaccine ⇩ / Age ⇨	Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	19-23 months	2-3 years	4-6 years
Hepatitis B	HepB	Hep B			Hep B				Hep B Series		
Rotavirus			Rota	Rota	Rota						
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis			DTaP	DTaP	DTaP		DTap				DTap
Haemophilus influenzae type b			Hib	Hib	Hib	Hib		Hib			
Pneumococcal			PCV	PCV	PCV	PCV				PCV / PPSV	
Inactivated Poliovirus			IPV	IPV	IPV						IPV
Influenza					Influenza (Yearly)						
Measles, Mumps, Rubella						MMR					MMR
Varicella						Varicella					Varicella
Hepatitis A						Hep A (2 doses)				HepA Series	
Meningococcal										MCV4	

This schedule indicates the recommended ages for routine administration of currently licensed childhood vaccines, as of December 1, 2006, for children through age 18 years. Any dose not given at the recommended age should be given at any subsequent visit when indicated and feasible. ▬ Indicates age groups that warrant special effort to administer those vaccines not previously given. 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 and if approved by the Food and Drug Administration for that dose of the series. Providers should consult the respective ACIP statement 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.hhs.gov or by telephone 800–822–7967.

▬ Range of recommended ages ▬ Catch-up immunization
▬ Certain high-risk groups

What immunizations should my child have before entering day care or school?

State law requires that children entering child care or school be immunized. All vaccines are given in a series, and the number of doses required depends on the age of the child and how old the child was when immunizations started. School and child care immunization requirements reflect current medical recommendations and may require vaccine against any or all of the following diseases: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Rotavirus, Hepatitis A and B, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae type b (HIB), Varicella, Pneumococcal disease and Influenza. The "Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule" is included in this pamphlet. Consult your school nurse, child care provider, or health care provider for additional information.

Vaccines are constantly being developed and improved, and the state laws may be changed as well.

Under some circumstances, a child care or a school will accept a waiver as substitute for required immunizations. If a disease outbreak occurs, your child may be excluded from child care or school until the outbreak is over.

What if I have questions?

Check with your doctor, local health department, Health and Human Services or school if there are any questions regarding immunizations.

Remember–

- Keep your own record for each child.
- Keep it up-to-date.
- Review it often to be sure no immunizations are missed.
- Only missed immunizations will have to be made up--not the whole series.

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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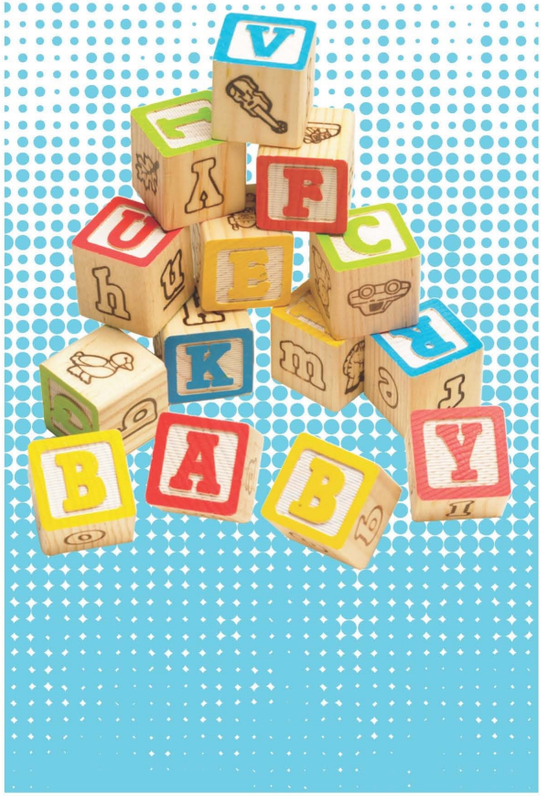
Immunizations and your New Baby



Immunizing your child on time is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. There are many dangerous childhood diseases (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Polio, Rotavirus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Pneumococcal disease, Meningococcal disease, and Influenza) which can be prevented.

Measles (hard, red, 7-day or 10-day measles, rubeola)

Measles lasts for one to two weeks and starts with the signs of a cold, followed by a high fever and rash. It spreads easily when an ill person coughs or sneezes. One out of every ten people who have measles develops pneumonia or ear infections and one out of every one thousand will become blind, deaf, mentally retarded or will suffer from seizures or other brain disorders.

Mumps

Mumps causes fever, headache and painful swelling of glands under the jaw or in front of the ears. It leads to inflammation of the brain in 15% of ill children and while most get well without problems, deafness may occur. It can also cause painful swelling of the testicles and ovaries, but rarely makes a person sterile.

Rubella (German measles or 3-day measles)

Rubella is usually a mild, 3-day illness that causes a slight fever, rash and swollen glands behind the ears. Sometimes, the joints will become sore and swollen. Problems occur when a pregnant woman catches rubella. There is one chance in five that her baby will be born with serious birth defects, including heart problems, blindness, deafness or mental retardation.

Varicella (Chickenpox)

Chickenpox is caused by a virus which spreads when germs pass from an infected person to the nose or throat of others. It usually causes a rash, itching, tiredness, and fever. It can lead to pneumonia, brain infection or death. Complications occur most often in very young children, adults, or people with damaged immune systems.

Diphtheria

Diphtheria usually attacks the airways, causing a severe sore throat, fever and cough. Dead skin cells can block the windpipe, choking the ill person. Diphtheria makes and sends poison into the bloodstream, attacking the heart, brain and nerves. About one out of ten people who get the disease dies. Those who survive may have permanent nerve damage.

Tetanus ("lockjaw")

Tetanus occurs when the bacteria, usually found in dirt, gets into wounds or cuts. It makes a poison which causes severe muscle spasms and violent convulsions. Breathing and heart problems often result. Of those who become ill, about one in ten will die.

Pertussis ("whooping cough")

Pertussis causes severe coughing spells, making it hard for the sick child to eat, drink, and breathe. One out of every ten children with Pertussis gets pneumonia. Over half of the infants younger than one year of age are hospitalized. Those under 3 months of age are at highest risk for death.

Polio

Polio virus is found in the nose, throat, and intestines of infected people. It spreads easily and often permanently disables or kills its victims.

HIB meningitis

(Haemophilus influenzae type b disease; "HIB disease")

Haemophilus influenzae type b (HIB) germs are spread from an infected person to the nose or throat of others. HIB causes meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings), pneumonia, and infection of the blood, joints, bone, throat, and heart covering. This disease is very serious for children under 5 years of age, especially infants.

Rotavirus

Rotavirus is a leading cause of severe vomiting and diarrhea worldwide. Children may have to be hospitalized because of loss of body fluids.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus, (HAV). This (HAV) virus is found in the stool of a person with hepatitis A. The disease can cause mild "flu-like" illness, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), severe stomach pains and diarrhea. Hospitalization often occurs in people with hepatitis A (up to one person in 10). The disease can be easily spread to others within the same household. Deaths in the U.S. are about 100 per year.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a serious disease of the liver caused by the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). This can cause life long infection and severe illness such as cirrhosis (which destroys the liver), or liver cancer. Of every ten infants who are infected at birth, up to nine will become chronic HBV carriers, and can spread the infection to others throughout their lifetime.

Pneumococcal disease

Pneumococcal disease is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in the United States. Each year pneumococcal disease causes many health problems in children less than 5 years of age, including: meningitis, blood infections and ear infections. Children under 2 years of age are at highest risk for serious disease.

Influenza

Influenza is caused by a virus that spreads from infected persons to the nose or throat of others. The disease is spread mainly by coughing and sneezing, and anyone can catch it. Influenza can cause fever, sore throat, headache, chills, and muscle aches. Most people are ill with influenza for only a few days, but some get much sicker and may need to be hospitalized. Influenza causes thousands of deaths each year in the United States. Influenza viruses change often, so, the vaccine is updated each year.

Questions And Answers

Why should my child be immunized?

Before vaccines were available, parents lived with the constant fear that their children would be among the thousands who were left disabled or dead by common childhood diseases such as polio, measles or pertussis. Fortunately, today most children are immunized and parents' fears have become a thing of the past.

Even though the actual number of reported cases has been greatly decreased, diseases preventable through immunization have not disappeared. If children remain unimmunized, they are unnecessarily at risk of contracting one of these deadly diseases.

Are vaccines safe?

Vaccines are among the safest and most effective of all medications. Each year, about 100 million doses are given in this county, most of them to babies and young children. Like most medications, however, vaccines can cause side effects. These are usually mild, short lasting, and can include fever, soreness at the injection site or a mild rash.

On rare occasions, the side effects are serious and your clinic or health department staff can discuss those reactions with you. It is generally agreed that risks from the vaccines are far less than the risks faced if the child becomes ill.