IMMUNIZATION RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND PARENTS-TO-BE

2017 VERSION
Dear Parent,

This booklet contains helpful information on vaccines (shots) for you and your family.

Vaccines save lives. They protect against serious diseases like measles, flu, whooping cough and chickenpox.

Immunizing children against certain diseases is one important way to help them stay healthy. It is important to follow the recommended schedules shown in this booklet and get your children vaccinated on time.

If you have children who are under 19 years of age and they do not have health insurance, are Medicaid-eligible, or are underinsured, they may be able to receive free vaccines at their doctor’s office through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. For more information on the VFC Program, see the Q&A page in this booklet or visit www.cdc.gov/features/vfcprogram. Your local health department is another good resource for information about vaccines.

Adults, especially pregnant women, need vaccines too. By getting yourself vaccinated you are helping to protecting both you and your baby from dangerous diseases.
2017 Recommended Immunizations for Children from Birth Through 6 Years Old

**Birth**
- HepB

**1 month**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**2 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**4 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**6 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**12 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**15 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**18 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**19–23 months**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**2–3 years**
- HepB
- RV
- DTaP
- Hib
- PCV
- IPV

**4–6 years**
- DTaP
- IPV
- MMR
- Varicella
- HepA
- Influenza (Yearly)*

*Shaded boxes indicate the vaccine can be given during shown age range.

Is your family growing? To protect your new baby and yourself against whooping cough, get a Tdap vaccine. The recommended time is the 27th through 36th week of pregnancy. Talk to your doctor for more details.

**FOOTNOTES:**

- ***Two doses given at least four weeks apart are recommended for children aged 6 months through 8 years of age who are getting an influenza (flu) vaccine for the first time and for some other children in this age group.**

- **§Two doses of HepA vaccine are needed for lasting protection. The first dose of HepA vaccine should be given between 12 months and 23 months of age. The second dose should be given 6 to 18 months later. HepA vaccination may be given to any child 12 months and older to protect against HepA. Children and adolescents who did not receive the HepA vaccine and are at high-risk, should be vaccinated against HepA.**

- **If your child has any medical conditions that put him at risk for infection or is traveling outside the United States, talk to your child’s doctor about additional vaccines that he may need.**

**NOTE:**

If your child misses a shot, you don’t need to start over, just go back to your child’s doctor for the next shot. Talk with your child’s doctor if you have questions about vaccines.

For more information, call toll free 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) or visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents
# Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Disease spread by</th>
<th>Disease symptoms</th>
<th>Disease complications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickenpox</td>
<td>Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Rash, tiredness, headache, fever</td>
<td>Infected blisters, bleeding disorders, encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td>DTaP* vaccine protects against diphtheria.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands in neck</td>
<td>Swelling of the heart muscle, heart failure, coma, paralysis, death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hib</td>
<td>Hib vaccine protects against <em>Haemophilus influenzae</em> type b.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>May be no symptoms unless bacteria enter the blood</td>
<td>Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), intellectual disability, epiglottitis (life-threatening infection that can block the windpipe and lead to serious breathing problems), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>HepA vaccine protects against hepatitis A.</td>
<td>Direct contact, contaminated food or water</td>
<td>May be no symptoms, fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine</td>
<td>Liver failure, arthralgia (joint pain), kidney, pancreatic, and blood disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>HepB vaccine protects against hepatitis B.</td>
<td>Contact with blood or body fluids</td>
<td>May be no symptoms, fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), joint pain</td>
<td>Chronic liver infection, liver failure, liver cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influenza (Flu)</td>
<td>Flu vaccine protects against influenza.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue</td>
<td>Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>MMR** vaccine protects against measles.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Rash, fever, cough, runny nose, pinkeye</td>
<td>Encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>MMR** vaccine protects against mumps.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Swollen salivary glands (under the jaw), fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain</td>
<td>Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), encephalitis (brain swelling), inflammation of testicles or ovaries, deafness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>DTaP* vaccine protects against pertussis (whooping cough).</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Severe cough, runny nose, apnea (a pause in breathing in infants)</td>
<td>Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>IPV vaccine protects against polio.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact, through the mouth</td>
<td>May be no symptoms, sore throat, fever, nausea, headache</td>
<td>Paralysis, death</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal</td>
<td>PCV vaccine protects against pneumococcus.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>May be no symptoms, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)</td>
<td>Bacteremia (blood infection), meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), death</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotavirus</td>
<td>RV vaccine protects against rotavirus.</td>
<td>Through the mouth</td>
<td>Diarrhea, fever, vomiting</td>
<td>Severe diarrhea, dehydration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>MMR** vaccine protects against rubella.</td>
<td>Air, direct contact</td>
<td>Children infected with rubella virus sometimes have a rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes</td>
<td>Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetanus</td>
<td>DTaP* vaccine protects against tetanus.</td>
<td>Exposure through cuts in skin</td>
<td>Stiffness in neck and abdominal muscles, difficulty swallowing, muscle spasms, fever</td>
<td>Broken bones, breathing difficulty, death</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* DTaP combines protection against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.  
** MMR combines protection against measles, mumps, and rubella.
Talk to your child’s doctor or nurse about the vaccines recommended for their age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Flu</th>
<th>Tdap</th>
<th>HPV Human papillomavirus</th>
<th>Meningococcal</th>
<th>Pneumococcal</th>
<th>Hepatitis B</th>
<th>Hepatitis A</th>
<th>Inactivated Polio</th>
<th>MMR</th>
<th>Measles, mumps, rubella</th>
<th>Chickenpox</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis</td>
<td>Human papillomavirus</td>
<td>MenACWY</td>
<td>MenB</td>
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<td>7-8 Years</td>
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<td>11-12 Years</td>
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<td>13-15 Years</td>
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<td>16-18 Years</td>
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More information:
- Preteens and teens should get a flu vaccine every year.
- Preteens and teens should get one shot of Tdap at age 11 or 12 years.
- All 11-12 year olds should get a 2-shot series of HPV vaccine at least 6 months apart. A 3-shot series is needed for those with weakened immune systems and those age 15 or older.
- All 11-12 year olds should get a single shot of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY). A booster shot is recommended at age 16.
- Teens, 16-18 years old, may be vaccinated with a MenB vaccine.

These shaded boxes indicate when the vaccine is recommended for all children unless your doctor tells you that your child cannot safely receive the vaccine.

These shaded boxes indicate the vaccine should be given if a child is catching-up on missed vaccines.

These shaded boxes indicate the vaccine is recommended for children with certain health or lifestyle conditions that put them at an increased risk for serious diseases. See vaccine-specific recommendations at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm.

This shaded box indicates the vaccine is recommended for children not at increased risk but who wish to get the vaccine after speaking to a provider.
Every Child By Two’s Vaccine-Preventable Diseases eBook

VaccinateYourFamily.org/baby-and-child/protect
MEASLES

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. The disease spreads quickly and can be serious or even fatal for small children. The disease kills hundreds of thousands of children a year around the world, most under the age of 5.

Even in previously healthy children, measles can be a serious illness requiring hospitalization. As many as 1 out of every 20 children with measles gets pneumonia, and about 1 child in every 1,000 who get measles will develop encephalitis. (This is a swelling of the brain that can lead to convulsions, and can leave the child deaf or intellectually disabled.)

Recently, measles has re-emerged as a threat in the United States, despite being eliminated in 2000. Outbreaks across the country have put children at risk.

SYMPTOMS

Measles signs and symptoms appear seven to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. Signs and symptoms of measles typically include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Red eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Sensitivity to light
- Tiny white spots inside the mouth
- A skin rash made up of large, flat blotches

PREVENTION

To prevent measles, children should be vaccinated with the combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

For the best protection against measles, your children need to receive the two recommended doses of the vaccine. To see if your children are up-to-date on their vaccines, look at the CDC’s immunization schedule and talk to your healthcare provider.

Adults born after 1957 who have not had the measles or the MMR vaccine (and don’t show evidence of immunity) should receive at least one dose of the vaccine.

For more information, visit vaccinateyourfamily.org.
9 Things You Need to Know About Immunizations

1. Why your child should be vaccinated

Children need immunizations (shots) to protect them from dangerous childhood diseases. These diseases can have serious complications and even kill children.

2. Diseases that childhood vaccines prevent

- Diphtheria
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib disease causes of bacterial meningitis)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV causes cervical and other cancers)
- Influenza (Flu)
- Measles
- Meningococcal
- Mumps
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Pneumococcal (causes bacterial meningitis and blood infections)
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Tetanus (Lockjaw)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

3. Number of doses your child needs

The following vaccinations are recommended **by age two** and can be given over 5 visits to a doctor or clinic.

- 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis vaccine (DTaP)
- 3-4 doses of Hib vaccine (depending on the brand of vaccine used)
- 4 doses of pneumococcal vaccine
- 3 doses of polio vaccine
- 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- 1 dose of measles, mumps & rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 2-3 doses of rotavirus vaccine (depending on the brand of vaccine used)
- 1 dose of varicella vaccine
- 1 or 2 doses of flu vaccine each year (given to children 6 months and older; number of doses depends on child’s flu vaccination history)

Information adapted from CDC website - [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/10-shouldknow.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/10-shouldknow.htm)
4. Like any medicine, there may be minor side effects

Side effects can occur with any medicine, including vaccines. Depending on the vaccine, these can include: slight fever, rash, or soreness where the shot was given. Slight discomfort is normal and should not be a cause for alarm. Your health care provider can give you additional information.

5. What to do if your child has a serious reaction

Although it’s very rare, some children may have more serious reactions to their shots. The risk of serious complications from a vaccine-preventable disease is far greater than the risk of a serious reaction to a vaccine. If you think your child is experiencing a persistent or severe reaction, call your doctor or get the child to a doctor right away. Write down what happened and the date and time it happened. Ask your doctor, nurse or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Report form or go to www.vaers.hhs.gov to file this form yourself electronically.

6. Why you should not wait to vaccinate

Children under 5 are especially susceptible to disease because their immune systems have not built up the necessary defenses to fight infection. By fully immunizing on time, you can protect your child from disease and also protect others at school or daycare.

7. Be sure to track your child’s shots with a vaccination record

A vaccination record (also known as a shot record) helps you and your doctor keep your child's vaccinations on schedule. If you move or change doctors, having an accurate record might prevent your child from repeating vaccinations he or she has already had. A shot record should be started when your child receives his/her first vaccination and updated with each vaccination visit. Ask your doctor if your child has his/her vaccination record in your local or state electronic immunization registry.

8. Some are eligible for free vaccinations

A federal program called Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides free vaccines to eligible children, including those without health insurance coverage, all those who are enrolled in Medicaid, American Indians and Alaskan Natives and those whose health insurance dues does not cover vaccines and go to Federally Qualified Health Clinics or Rural Health Centers.

9. More information is available.

For general questions about vaccines, call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) English and Español, or visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines

Every Child By Two’s Vaccinate Your Family website – www.vaccinateyourfamily.org

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – www.healthychildren.org
### Infant Immunizations FAQs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are vaccines safe?</strong></td>
<td>Yes. Vaccines are very safe. The United States’ long-standing vaccine safety system ensures that vaccines are as safe as possible. Currently, the United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history. Millions of children are safely vaccinated each year. The most common side effects are typically very mild, such as pain or swelling at the injection site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What are the side effects of the vaccines? How do I treat them?</strong></td>
<td>Vaccines, like any medication, may cause some side effects. <strong>Most of these side effects are very minor, like soreness where the shot was given, fussiness, or a low-grade fever.</strong> These side effects typically only last a couple of days and are treatable. For example, you can apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth on the sore area to ease discomfort. Serious reactions are very rare. However, if your child experiences any reactions that concern you, call the doctor’s office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What are the risks and benefits of vaccines?</strong></td>
<td>Vaccines can prevent infectious diseases that once killed or harmed many infants, children, and adults. Without vaccines, your child is at risk for getting seriously ill and suffering pain, disability, and even death from diseases like measles and whooping cough. The main risks associated with getting vaccines are side effects, which are almost always mild (redness and swelling at the injection site) and go away within a few days. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare and doctors and clinic staff are trained to deal with them. <strong>The disease-prevention benefits of getting vaccines are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is there a link between vaccines and autism?</strong></td>
<td><strong>No. Scientific studies and reviews continue to show no relationship between vaccines and autism.</strong> Some people have suggested that thimerosal (a compound that contains mercury) in vaccines given to infants and young children might be a cause of autism, and others have suggested that the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine may be linked to autism. However, numerous scientists and researchers have studied and continue to study the MMR vaccine and thimerosal, and reach the same conclusion: that there is no link between them and autism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can vaccines overload my baby's immune system?</strong></td>
<td>Vaccines do not overload the immune system. Every day, a healthy baby’s immune system successfully fights off millions of germs. Antigens are parts of germs that cause the body’s immune system to go to work. The antigens in vaccines come from the germs themselves, but the germs are weakened or killed so they cannot cause serious illness. <strong>Even if they receive several vaccinations in one day, vaccines contain only a tiny fraction of the antigens that babies encounter every day in their environment.</strong> Vaccines provide your child with the antibodies they need to fight off the serious illnesses for which they have been vaccinated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why are so many doses needed for each vaccine?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Getting every recommended dose of each vaccine provides your child with the best protection possible.</strong> Depending on the vaccine, more than one dose is needed to build high enough immunity to prevent disease, boost immunity that fades over time, make sure people who did not get immunity from a first dose are protected, or protect against germs that change over time, like flu. Every dose of a vaccine is important because they all protect against infectious diseases that are threats today and can be especially serious for infants and very young children.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why do vaccines start so early?</strong></td>
<td><strong>The recommended schedule is designed to protect infants and children by providing immunity early in life, before they are exposed to life-threatening diseases.</strong> Children are immunized early because they are susceptible to diseases at a young age, and the consequences of these diseases can be very serious, and even life-threatening, for infants and young children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What do you think of delaying some vaccines or following an alternative schedule?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Children do not receive any known benefits from following schedules that delay vaccines.</strong> Infants and young children who follow immunization schedules that spread out shots—or leave out shots—are at risk of developing diseases during the time that shots are delayed. Some vaccine-preventable diseases remain common in the United States, and children may be exposed to these diseases during the time they are not protected by vaccines, placing them at risk for a serious case of the disease that might cause hospitalization or death.</td>
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</table>
Haven’t we gotten rid of most of these diseases in this country?

Some vaccine-preventable diseases, like pertussis (whooping cough) and chickenpox, remain common in the United States. On the other hand, other diseases prevented by vaccines are no longer common in this country because of vaccines. However, if we stopped vaccinating, even the few cases we have in the United States could very quickly become tens or hundreds of thousands of cases. Even though many serious vaccine-preventable diseases are uncommon in the United States, some are common in other parts of the world. Even if your family does not travel internationally, you could come into contact with international travelers anywhere in your community. Kids that are not fully vaccinated and are exposed to a disease can become seriously sick and spread it through a community.

What are combination vaccines? Why are they used?

Combination vaccines protect your child against more than one disease with a single shot. They reduce the number of shots and office visits your child would need, which not only saves you time and money, but also is easier on your child.

Some common combination vaccines that are currently used are: DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) and MMR (measles-mumps-rubella).

Can’t I just wait until my child goes to school to catch up on immunizations?

Before entering school, young children can be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases from parents and other adults, brothers and sisters, on a plane, at child care, or even at the grocery store. Children under age 5 are especially susceptible to diseases because their immune systems have not built up the necessary defenses to fight infection. Don’t wait to protect your baby and risk getting these diseases when he or she needs protection now.

Why does my child need a chickenpox shot? Isn’t it a mild disease?

Your child needs a chickenpox vaccine because chickenpox can actually be a serious disease. In many cases, children experience a mild case of chickenpox, but other kids may have blisters that become infected. Others may develop pneumonia. There is no way to tell in advance the severity of the symptoms your child will experience.

Before vaccine was available, about 50 kids died every year from chickenpox, and about 1 in 500 kids who got chickenpox was hospitalized.

My child is sick right now. Is it okay for her to still get shots?

Talk with the doctor, but children can usually get vaccinated even if they have a mild illness like a cold, earache, mild fever, or diarrhea. If the doctor says it is okay, your child can still get vaccinated.

What are the ingredients in vaccines and what do they do?

Vaccines contain ingredients that cause the body to develop immunity. Vaccines also contain very small amounts of other ingredients—all of which play necessary roles either in making the vaccine, or in ensuring that the final product is safe and effective.

Don’t infants have natural immunity? Isn’t natural immunity better than the kind from vaccines?

Babies may get some temporary immunity (protection) from mom during the last few weeks of pregnancy—but only for the diseases to which mom is immune. Breastfeeding may also protect your baby temporarily from minor infections, like colds. These antibodies do not last long, leaving the infant vulnerable to disease.

Natural immunity occurs when your child is exposed to a disease and becomes infected. It is true that natural immunity usually results in better immunity than vaccination, but the risks are much greater. A natural chickenpox infection may result in pneumonia, whereas the vaccine might only cause a sore arm for a couple of days.
Making the choice to vaccinate your child is vital for their health and well-being. Even so, getting shots can still be stressful for you and your little one. Fortunately, there are simple ways you can support your child before, during, and after shots.

### Before Getting Shots
Come prepared! Take these steps before your child gets a shot to help make the immunization visit less stressful on you both.

- Read any vaccine materials you received from your child’s health care professional and write down any questions you may have.
- Find your child’s personal immunization record and bring it to your appointment. An up-to-date record tells your doctor exactly what shots your child has already received.
- Pack a favorite toy or book, and a blanket that your child uses regularly to comfort your child.

For older children:
- Be honest with your child. Explain that shots can pinch or sting, but that it won’t hurt for long.
- Engage other family members, especially older siblings, to support your child.
- Avoid telling scary stories or making threats about shots.

### At the Doctor’s Office
If you have questions about immunizations, ask your child’s doctor or nurse. Before you leave the appointment, ask your child’s doctor for advice on using non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home to comfort your child.

Try these ideas for making the shots easier on your child.

- Distract and comfort your child by cuddling, singing, or talking softly.
- Smile and make eye contact with your child. Let your child know that everything is ok.
- Comfort your child with a favorite toy or book. A blanket that smells familiar will help your child feel more comfortable.
- Hold your child firmly on your lap, whenever possible.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) adapted this information from Be There for Your Child during Shots, California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch.
For older children

- Take deep breaths with your child to help “blow out” the pain.
- Point out interesting things in the room to help create distractions.
- Tell or read stories.
- Support your child if he or she cries. Never scold a child for not “being brave.”

Once your child has received all of the shots, be especially supportive. Hold, cuddle, and, for infants, breastfeed or offer a bottle. A soothing voice, combined with praise and hugs will help reassure your child that everything is ok.

After the Shots

Sometimes children experience mild reactions from vaccines, such as pain at the injection site, a rash or a fever. These reactions are normal and will soon go away. The following tips will help you identify and minimize mild side effects.

- Review any information your doctor gives you about the shots, especially the Vaccine Information Statements or other sheets that outline which side effects might be expected.
- Use a cool, wet cloth to reduce redness, soreness, and swelling in the place where the shot was given.
- Reduce any fever with a cool sponge bath. If your doctor approves, give non-aspirin pain reliever.
- Give your child lots of liquid. It’s normal for some children to eat less during the 24 hours after getting vaccines.
- Pay extra attention to your child for a few days. If you see something that concerns you, call your doctor.
How can I get help paying for my child’s vaccines?

Since 1994, parents have been protecting their children through the VFC Program. This program provides free vaccines to children whose parents need help paying for them.

Is my child eligible for the VFC Program?

Your child is eligible if it is before his or her 19th birthday, and if he or she is one of the following:
- Medicaid-eligible
- Uninsured
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Underinsured (Underinsured children are only eligible for VFC Vaccines through Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.)

What do you mean by “underinsured?”

Underinsured means your child has health insurance, but it won’t cover the vaccine(s) because:
- It doesn’t cover any vaccines.
- It doesn’t cover certain vaccines.
- It covers vaccines, but it has a fixed dollar limit or cap for vaccines. Once that fixed dollar amount has been reached, your child is eligible.

Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?

Ask your doctor if he or she is a VFC Program provider. There are over 40,000 doctors enrolled in the VFC Program nationwide.

How much will I have to pay?

All vaccines are free through the VFC Program, saving you $100 or more on some vaccines. Even though you’re saving a great deal of money by getting free vaccines, there can be other costs to the VFC visit:
- Doctors can charge a fee to give each shot. However, VFC vaccines cannot be denied to an eligible child if the family cannot afford the fee.
- There can be a fee for the office visit.
- There can be fees for non-vaccines services, like an eye exam or a blood test.

My child’s doctor isn’t a VFC provider. Where can I take my child for vaccines?

If your child’s doctor isn’t a VFC provider, you can take your child to one of the following places to get VFC vaccines:
- Public Health Clinic
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- Rural Health Clinic (RHC)

The best place to take your child depends on where you live and how your child is eligible for the VFC Program. Before you go, contact your state’s VFC coordinator and ask where you should take your child for vaccines. You can find your state’s VFC coordinator at this website: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/contacts-state.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/contacts-state.html). Or call [1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)](tel:1-800-232-4636). Ask for the phone number for your state’s VFC coordinator.

For more information about the VFC Program, you can go to CDC’s VFC webpage at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/) or call [1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)](tel:1-800-232-4636) and ask for information about the VFC Program.
Keeping Track of Your Children’s Shots: Questions & Answers for Parents

What are Immunization Information Systems?

Immunization Information Systems (IIS), also known as immunization registries, are computer systems that have information on the shots that were given to your child. Some IIS can remind you or your doctor of the next shot due to keep your child up-to-date with their immunizations.

What are the benefits of having my child’s shot record saved in an IIS?

- Helps to make sure that your child doesn't miss any shots or get too many shots
- Reminds you by mail or telephone when your child need shots
- Allows you to quickly get a copy of your child's shot record from the doctor
- Makes sure your child has all of the shots needed to start daycare, school and/or camp

What information is in an IIS?

The information stored in an IIS is different in every state, but most contain at least the following information:

- Patient’s name (first, middle, and last)
- Patient’s birth date
- Patient’s gender (male or female)
- Patient’s birth state/country
- Mother's name
- Types of shots given
- Dates the shots were given

Who do I contact to see if my child’s shot record is in an IIS or if I want a copy of my child’s shot record?

You must contact your doctor’s office, or your local or state health department. Some states allow the public to directly access the IIS in order to print out shot records.

Does it cost any money to have my child’s shot record in my state’s IIS?

No, there is no cost to a parent/patient to participate in an IIS.

How can I find out if my child's doctor is participating in the IIS?

Just ask your doctor if they use the state or local IIS. You can also contact the IIS in your area to find out if your doctor participates.
## 2017 Recommended Immunizations for Adults: By Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Flu (Influenza)</th>
<th>Td/Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)</th>
<th>Shingles</th>
<th>Pneumococcal</th>
<th>Meningococcal</th>
<th>MMR (Measles, mumps, rubella)</th>
<th>HPV (Human papillomavirus)</th>
<th>Chickenpox</th>
<th>Hepatitis A</th>
<th>Hepatitis B</th>
<th>Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 - 21 years</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Light Green</td>
<td>Dark Green</td>
<td>PCV13</td>
<td>MenACWY or MPSV4</td>
<td>MenB</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 - 26 years</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Light Green</td>
<td>Dark Green</td>
<td>PCV13</td>
<td>MenACWY or MPSV4</td>
<td>MenB</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
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<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 - 59 years</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Light Green</td>
<td>Dark Green</td>
<td>PCV13</td>
<td>MenACWY or MPSV4</td>
<td>MenB</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 64 years</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Light Green</td>
<td>Dark Green</td>
<td>PCV13</td>
<td>MenACWY or MPSV4</td>
<td>MenB</td>
<td>Brown</td>
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<td>Blue</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Light Green</td>
<td>Dark Green</td>
<td>PCV13</td>
<td>MenACWY or MPSV4</td>
<td>MenB</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### More Information:
- **Recommended For You**: This vaccine is recommended for you unless your healthcare professional tells you that you do not need it or should not get it.
- **May Be Recommended For You**: This vaccine is recommended for you if you have certain risk factors due to your health condition or other. Talk to your healthcare professional to see if you need this vaccine.
- **You should get this vaccine if you did not get it when you were a child.**
  - You should get HPV vaccine if you are a woman through age 26 years or a man through age 21 years and did not already complete the series.
  - You should get PCV13 and at least 1 dose of PPSV23 depending on your age and health condition.

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**For more information, call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) or visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines**

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**If you are traveling outside the United States, you may need additional vaccines.**
Ask your healthcare professional about which vaccines you may need at least 6 weeks before you travel.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a serious disease, especially in infants. Some babies with whooping cough have coughing fits and gasp for air, while others may stop breathing. About half of babies younger than 12 months who get whooping cough are hospitalized. The good news is that you can help protect your baby by getting the whooping cough vaccine (also called Tdap) during pregnancy, you'll pass antibodies to your baby that will help protect your newborn from this disease from the time he is born until your baby gets his own whooping cough vaccine at 2 months of age. Doctors and midwives who specialize in treating pregnant women agree that the whooping cough vaccine is safe and important to get during the 3rd trimester of every pregnancy.

Influenza (Flu)

The flu can be a dangerous illness, especially for pregnant women and young children. Changes in a woman’s immune, heart, and lung functions during pregnancy make her more likely to get severely ill and suffer severe complications from the flu than non-pregnant women. Pregnant women with the flu also have a greater chance for serious problems for their unborn baby, including premature labor and delivery. Fortunately, getting a flu shot is a simple thing a pregnant woman can do to help protect herself and her baby. When you get a flu shot, your body makes antibodies that can be passed on to your unborn baby to help protect the baby from flu for up to 6 months after he or she is born. This is important because babies do not begin vaccination against flu until 6 months of age, but are at high risk of severe complications from the flu. Sadly, every year, about 20,000 children under five are hospitalized and approximately 100 die due to complications from the flu. The flu vaccine is safe for pregnant women and their babies, and can be received during any trimester. The CDC recommends getting the vaccine as soon as it becomes available.

Surround Your Baby with Protection

For additional protection, make sure friends, family and caregivers who will be in contact with your baby are up-to-date on their vaccinations at least two weeks before meeting your newborn.
There’s so much to do before the big day. Let us help guide you on ways to keep your newborn healthy from start.

Visit VaccinateYourFamily.org to learn…

- How getting flu and pertussis vaccinations while pregnant protects your newborn.

- Why it’s important to follow the CDC’s recommended schedule.

- Which vaccines your baby needs and when each is due.

  Why your baby needs the Hepatitis B vaccine *before* leaving the hospital.

- How vaccines are continually monitored for safety.

- What to do if you can’t afford to pay for vaccines.

- Where to go for reliable resources on children’s health.

  And much, much more…
Credible Websites for Vaccine Information and Resources

Every Child By Two and its Vaccinate Your Family program - www.ecbt.org and www.vaccinateyourfamily.org

American Academy of Family Physicians - www.familydoctor.org

American Academy of Pediatrics - www.aap.org/immunization

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - www.immunizationforwomen.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov/vaccines and www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents (parent-friendly website)

Department of Health and Human Services - www.flu.gov and www.vaccines.gov

Families Fighting Flu - www.familiesfightingflu.org

Family Vaccines Resource Center - www.family-vaccines.org

Immunization Action Coalition - www.vaccineinformation.org

Institute for Vaccine Safety at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health - www.vaccinesafety.edu

Meningitis Angels - www.meningitis-angels.org

National Meningitis Association - www.nmaus.org

Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases - www.pkids.org

Vaccine Education Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia - vaccine.chop.edu