

# Vaccine and immunization facts

## Keeping your child healthy

Vaccines are safe and effective. They help protect your child from serious diseases. It is important to follow the evidence-based schedule that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends.

### Immunization schedule by age

Many of the vaccines below are available in combination form, so there are fewer needle sticks.

#### Birth

- HepB (hepatitis B virus)
- RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) depending on the mother's RSV vaccination status

#### 1 to 2 months

- HepB (hepatitis B)
- RV (rotavirus)
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b)
- IPV (polio virus)
- PCV (pneumococcal conjugate)

#### 4 months

- RV (rotavirus)
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b)
- IPV (polio virus)
- PCV (pneumococcal conjugate)

#### 6 months

- RV (rotavirus)
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b)
- IPV (polio virus)
- PCV (pneumococcal conjugate)
- Influenza (flu) with a booster in 4 weeks
- COVID-19 with a booster in 4-12 weeks

#### 6 to 12 months

- HepB (hepatitis B virus)
- IPV (polio virus)

#### 12 to 18 months

- MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- HepA (hepatitis A)
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b)
- PCV (pneumococcal conjugate)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

#### 4 to 6 years

- MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- IPV (polio virus)
- Varicella (chickenpox)



For more information, visit [cookchildrensimmunizations.org](https://cookchildrensimmunizations.org)

## 9 to 12 years

- Meningococcal conjugate
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- HPV (human papillomavirus) with a booster in 6-12 months

## 16 to 18 years

- Meningococcal conjugate
- MenB (meningococcal B) – discuss with your doctor
- HPV (human papillomavirus) with 2 boosters if not started when younger

## Every year

- Influenza (flu)
- COVID-19

## Your questions and answers

It is normal to have questions about vaccines and your child's health. Please talk to us about any concerns you may have.

### Are vaccines safe?

Yes! Millions of people get them safely every year. A disease is more likely to harm your child than a vaccine is. Doctors cannot use a vaccine unless the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved it as safe and effective. The CDC and FDA monitor vaccine safety, even after approval.

### Do vaccines work?

Yes! Across the world, vaccines prevent millions of deaths a year. In the U.S., polio and smallpox are no longer a threat because of vaccinations.

### Are there common side effects?

Your child may have a sore arm or a mild fever and be fussy for a short time. Call your child's doctor if you have any concerns after vaccines are given.

### Why do you give several shots at one time?

There is a medical reason for this. The number of shots and the combination of the shots work best to build your child's immunity. A lot of research has proven that the vaccines don't affect each other and that they are safe to give together.

### Do vaccines cause autism?

No. Science has confirmed there is no relationship between vaccines, thimerosal, and autism. Children start vaccines when they are young. Some children start to show symptoms of autism between age 1 or 2 years. Although they happen around the same time, one does not cause the other.

### What if my child is sick or not healthy?

Talk to your doctor. Most children who have a minor illness can still get their vaccines. Children with certain health problems, like cancer or a weak immune system, may need to avoid some vaccines or get them later.