

Immunization Care

Getting your child immunized is one of the most important things you can do to protect his or her health. Our program works to help kids get a better shot at staying well.

We care about your child's health. Children need to complete basic immunizations by 18 months. Starting their shots on time and getting all the needed shots may help protect your children from infectious diseases.

While most immunizations should be given by 18 months, there are additional shots children need up to 18 years. View the Childhood Immunization schedule from the American Academy of Family Physicians to see when your child should receive them.

Keep a current record in one place

We encourage you to establish a "home" for your child's updated immunizations by keeping a current record at one primary care provider's office. If your child has received immunizations from other primary care providers or the health department, you should obtain a record of them. Take it to the same primary care provider, so a current record can be maintained. Keep an additional record in a safe place at home, too.

The Immunizations:

The following are the immunizations (*adopted from the American Academy of Family Physicians*) that your child needs and what each protects against:

Hepatitis B - Protects against Hepatitis B virus which causes liver disease.

DTaP or Tdap - Protects against diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), and pertussis (whooping cough), all of which can have serious complications.

Polio - Protects against polio, which can leave people paralyzed and permanently disabled.

Hib - Provides protection against Haemophilus influenzae type B, which can cause meningitis and pneumonia.

MMR - Is actually three vaccines in one. It protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

Measles - This virus spreads very easily and causes rash, fever, cough, and watery eyes. More serious cases can lead to pneumonia, brain damage, seizures, and death.

Mumps - Can cause swollen neck glands, fever, and headache. In some cases, mumps can cause permanent hearing loss.

Rubella - Can be mild in childhood, but can cause serious birth defects and other pregnancy complications in adults. It is highly contagious, and proper immunization is very important to prevent these serious complications.

Varicella (VZV) - Commonly known as chicken pox, is a virus that causes a rash, itching, fatigue and fever. It can also lead to more serious complications in very young children, adults, or people with damaged immune systems.

Pneumococcal (PCV) - Protects against the leading cause of meningitis in children under 2.

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPV) - Protects against pneumonia. *Recommended for "at risk" children. Discuss with your primary care provider.*

Influenza - Protects against the flu; strains vary yearly.

Td - Protects against tetanus and diphtheria.

Hepatitis A - Protects against hepatitis A virus that may cause liver failure.

Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4) - Protects against meningococcal disease.

Rotavirus - Protects against a virus that can cause fever, vomiting, and diarrhea in infants.

Human Papillomavirus - Protects against a virus that can cause cervical cancer and other diseases.

Recommended Immunizations for Babies

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child.html>

or a Spanish version can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs-sp.pdf>

Recommended Immunizations for Children and Adolescents

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>

Please call the customer service number on the back of your ID Card if you have questions about childhood immunizations.

Resource: CDC.gov