

Childhood Immunizations

Childhood diseases may have been forgotten, but they are not gone.

Vaccines are the best way to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases throughout their lives.

Is your child up to date with all recommended vaccines? Ask your child's healthcare provider.

Vaccines: Your best shot at prevention.

If you have questions about vaccines, ask your healthcare provider.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON VACCINES AND DISEASES, VISIT

- hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization
- www.immunize.org
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines
- www.aap.org

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Immunize for a better life!



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WHAT ARE VACCINES AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

Vaccines teach the immune system how to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses before an infection can happen. Vaccines provide protection without getting sick and suffering from diseases. Some vaccines require only one dose, while others require several doses to provide protection.

WHEN SHOULD CHILDREN RECEIVE VACCINES?

Children should receive recommended vaccines during the first two years of life and then again before starting school. It is important to follow the recommended immunization schedule and vaccinate children on time.

Following a different schedule, or delaying vaccines, leaves children at risk of developing diseases and potentially suffering from

- blindness
- brain damage
- hearing loss
- deformities
- kidney damage
- paralysis
- death

VACCINES ARE ROUTINELY RECOMMENDED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:

- Birth
- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 12 – 24 months
- 4 – 6 years

ARE VACCINES SAFE?

Vaccines in the United States are safe and effective. Common side effects from vaccines are minor and include soreness where the vaccine was given or a low-grade fever. Such minor symptoms are normal and should be expected as the body builds immunity. Serious reactions are very rare. Anyone who receives a vaccine should be fully informed about both the benefits and the risks. Any questions or concerns should be discussed with your healthcare provider.



Getting children vaccinated on time will protect against the following diseases:

- COVID-19
- Diphtheria
- Tetanus (lockjaw)
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib)
- Influenza (flu)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rotavirus
- Rubella
- Pneumococcal
- Polio
- Varicella (chickenpox)

YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD

Proof of immunizations may be necessary throughout life. Talk with your healthcare provider about entering immunizations into Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) and to obtain copies of your records.