Immunizations for Your Child

Immunizations (shots) with vaccines are a simple way to help keep your child from getting some common childhood illnesses. Vaccines are made from the weakened or dead germs (or part of the germs) that cause disease. These germs won’t cause your child to get the disease.

When your child receives a vaccine (usually by a shot), it helps him or her build antibodies, which destroy the vaccine germs. This helps protect your child against the disease.

For some diseases, several doses of vaccine are needed. As with all medicines, vaccines have some risks. Talk with your child’s health care provider about the risks before your child gets vaccinated.


If your child does not receive the recommended vaccines as scheduled, talk with your health care provider.

Most of the diseases that can be prevented with vaccines are contagious (can spread). Here is information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about diseases that vaccines can help prevent:

- diphtheria — a rare bacterial disease. Causes breathing problems. Can lead to heart failure or paralysis.
- haemophilus influenza type B — a bacterial disease. Causes meningitis, pneumonia, throat swelling and arthritis.
- hepatitis A — a viral disease. Affects the liver. Can lead to liver infection or cancer.
- hepatitis B — a viral disease. Affects the liver. Can lead to liver infection or cancer.
- HPV (human papillomavirus) — a group of viruses. Can cause cervical cancer, genital warts or both.
- measles — a rare viral disease. Causes a rash and a cold. Can lead to ear infections, pneumonia, and brain swelling.
- meningococcal disease — a bacterial disease. Causes blood infections, and meningitis.
- mumps — a rare viral disease. Causes cheeks and jaw to swell.
- pertussis (whooping cough) — a bacterial disease. Causes severe coughing.
- pneumococcal disease — a bacterial disease. Causes blood infections, pneumonia, meningitis and middle ear infections.
- polio — a rare viral disease. Causes symptoms from muscle stiffness to paralysis.
- rotavirus — a gastrointestinal viral disease. Causes diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration.
- rubella (German measles) — a rare viral disease. Causes a slight fever and rash.
- tetanus (lock jaw) — a rare bacterial disease. Causes whole body muscle spasms.
- varicella (chickenpox) — a viral disease. Causes an itchy rash all over the body.
- influenza — a viral disease. Causes fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough.
**Medicine Use**

There is evidence that acetaminophen (Tylenol®) reduces fever and irritability from immunizations (shots).

Talk with your health care provider for information on giving Tylenol before and after your child’s immunizations.

### Allina Health’s Child Immunization Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Vaccinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>DTaP’-HepB’-IPV’ PCV13’ Hib’ RV1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>DTaP’-HepB’-IPV’ PCV13’ Hib’ RV1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>DTaP’-HepB’-IPV’ PCV13’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>HepA’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 months</td>
<td>MMR’ VAR’ Hib’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>DTaP’ HepA’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 6 years</td>
<td>DTaP’-IPV’ MMR’ VAR’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 12 years</td>
<td>Tdap’ MCV4’ HPV9 (2 dose series#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>MCV4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Influenza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Vaccines included in the Minnesota School Immunization Law.
# Three doses of HPV9 are needed for teens and young adults ages 15 to 26.
+ One dose of MCV4 is needed for previously unvaccinated first-year college students ages 19 to 21 who are or will be living in a residence hall.

### Vaccine Abbreviations

- **DTaP-HepB-IPV**: diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis + hepatitis B + inactivated poliovirus vaccine (Pediarix®)
- **PCV13**: pneumococcal 13-valent conjugate vaccine (Prevnar 13™)
- **Hib**: haemophilus influenza type b conjugate vaccine (PedvaxHIB®)
- **RV1**: rotavirus vaccine, oral (Rotarix®)
- **HepA**: hepatitis A vaccine (Havrix®)
- **DTaP**: diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis vaccine (Infanrix®)

- **MMR**: measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR II™)
- **VAR**: varicella (Varivax®)
- **Tdap**: tetanus + diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine, adolescent/adult (Boostrix®)
- **MCV4**: meningococcal conjugate vaccine, quadrivalent (Menveo®)
- **DTaP-IPV**: diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis + inactivated poliovirus (Kinrix®)
- **HPV9**: human papillomavirus vaccine (Gardasil® 9)
- **Influenza**: quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine – IIV4 (Fluarix™)