



Immunizations

Immunizations have become a routine part of raising children. While it's still not mandated by law in the United States that every child must receive immunizations, each state sets its own requirements for entrance into public schools and facilities. Many are required to keep current immunization records on file. If there are medical reasons for why your child is not immunized, or if you state a personal belief against immunizations, it's possible for a nonvaccinated child to be enrolled in a public or private school.

The Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend the following immunization schedule:

VACCINE	FIRST DOSE	SECOND DOSE	THIRD DOSE	FOURTH DOSE	FIFTH DOSE	SIXTH DOSE
hepatitis B	before 2 months	1-4 months	6-18 months			
diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT)	2 months	4 months	6 months	12-18 months	4-6 years (booster)	11-16 years
H. influenza type B	2 months	4 months	6 months	12-15 months		
polio	2 months	4 months	6 months	4-6 years		
measles, mumps, rubella	12-15 months	4-6 years				

IMMUNIZATION FACTS

- Many people believe that immunizations are the best way to protect children from infectious diseases that can kill.
- With any medical procedure, including vaccines, there are risks of complications.
- The possibility that there's a connection between vaccines and ailments such as asthma and other chronic diseases is still unknown.
- Children who receive vaccines can still get the diseases they're immunized against.
- Though most of the diseases children are immunized against are all but nonexistent in the United States, they could become a threat again if vaccines are not used.

Before you have your child vaccinated, talk to your doctor if your child has had an adverse reaction to a previous immunization; has ever had a seizure; is allergic to eggs; or has a chronic illness that affects his immune system.

