



# 2020 Recommended immunizations for children from birth - 6 years old



	BIRTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	4 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	15 MONTHS	18 MONTHS	19-23 MONTHS	2-3 YEARS	4-6 YEARS
<b>Chickenpox (varicella)</b> 2 doses						<b>1</b> anytime during this range					<b>2</b>
<b>DTaP</b> 5 doses			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b> anytime during this range				<b>5</b>
<b>Hep A</b> 2 doses						<b>1-2</b> 2 doses between 12 - 23 months, 2nd dose should be 6 mos after 1st					
<b>Hep B</b> 2 doses	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> anytime during this range			<b>3</b> anytime during this range						
<b>Hib</b> 4 doses			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> anytime during this range					
<b>Influenza every year</b>					Once your child is 6 months old, make sure they have a flu shot every year. Children 6 mos - 8 yrs getting first flu shot should get 2 doses 4 weeks apart.						
<b>MMR</b> 2 doses						<b>1</b> anytime during this range					<b>2</b>
<b>Pneumococcal (PCV13)</b> 4 doses			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> anytime during this range					
<b>Polio (IPV)</b> 3 doses			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> anytime during this range						
<b>Rotavirus</b> 3 doses			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>						

- **Are you expecting?** You should get a Tdap vaccine between your 27th and 36th week of pregnancy to protect your newborn. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.
- **Has your child missed a vaccine?** Catching up is easy. You probably won't need to start your child's series over, just schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider to get caught up.
- **Do you have a child with special healthcare needs?** There may be additional recommended vaccines. Talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Is your family traveling out of the country?** Talk to your healthcare provider about what other vaccines your family may need. Start early since some vaccines are a series and others need time for full protection.

For more vaccine information visit [VoicesForVaccines.org](http://VoicesForVaccines.org)



# Frequently Asked Questions about the Childhood Vaccine Schedule

## Why are there so many more vaccines recommended for infants and children now?

The reason more vaccines are recommended in infancy than any other time in a person's life is because that is the time when children are most at risk of getting sick or dying from preventable diseases. A baby is born with some immunity to diseases that it gets from its mother, but that immunity wears off in the first few months of life. This leaves a child vulnerable to diseases that are very serious for babies such as whooping cough.

Children get more vaccines now than decades ago simply because today we are able to prevent more diseases through vaccines. As a result, fewer children become ill or die from these diseases.

## Are the large number of vaccines too much for an infant's immune system?

No. In fact, a baby's immune system meets many more immunological components on a daily basis than what is in vaccines. A baby's immune system is designed to face new bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens – that is how it learns to protect the baby from serious disease. But sometimes, a baby's system cannot identify a disease and build protection against it fast enough and the baby can get very sick or die. Vaccines prevent that. They allow a baby's immune system to safely recognize a disease and build protection against it WITHOUT the risk of getting sick. Science and technology are constantly evolving so while children get more vaccines than they used to, they are actually getting fewer antigens (a foreign substance that helps the body create an immune response).

## Is it okay to pick and choose which vaccines to get?

It's not a good idea to skip vaccines. Vaccines prevent serious and sometimes deadly diseases, and without them, you leave your child vulnerable. Even if your child survives the disease, they can be left with a lifelong disability like heart or brain damage. If you have concerns about particular vaccines, talk to your doctor or learn the facts from a reputable parent network like Voices for Vaccines or Vaccinate Your Family.

Key Resources to learn more:

- Pediatrics – The Problem with Dr. Bob's Alternative Vaccine Schedule
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia – Vaccine Schedule: Altering the Schedule

## What's wrong with an alternative schedule that spaces out vaccines for infants?

This biggest problem with an alternative schedule is that it is difficult to predict if and when a vaccine preventable outbreak could occur which leaves a child vulnerable to serious diseases. The vaccine schedule was developed to provide children protection when they are most at risk of disease.

Science backs this up. There have been many clinical trials that show the schedule is both safe and offers the best protection for children. Aside from the scientific reasons, the vaccine schedule is also easier on a baby. Studies show that there is less stress on a child's body from multiple vaccines at one than an increased number of well-baby visits. By giving more than one vaccine at a visit, there are fewer visits - and less stress.