



IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE



Childhood immunizations or vaccines can seem overwhelming when you are a new parent. Vaccinations not only protect your child from deadly diseases, such as polio, tetanus and diphtheria, but they also keep other children safe by eliminating or greatly decreasing dangerous diseases that spread from child to child.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines help your immune system fight infections more efficiently by sparking your immune response to specific diseases. Then, if the virus or bacteria ever invades your body in the future, your immune system will already know how to fight it.

What diseases do vaccines protect against?

Immunizing your baby with vaccines protects against serious diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, measles, mumps, whooping cough, polio, tetanus, rotavirus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chickenpox, influenza and many more.

Are vaccines safe?

Vaccines are very safe. Your child is far more likely to be hurt by a vaccine-preventable disease than by a vaccine. All vaccines go through rigorous safety testing, including clinical trials, before they are approved for the public.

Does breastfeeding my baby protect them from infectious diseases?

Breast milk does contain some antibodies which are passed to the baby, especially in the first few days. However, this 'passive immunity' wears off after a few weeks and after that breastfeeding offers very little protection from serious infectious diseases. It is therefore best to get your child vaccinated even if you are breastfeeding long-term.

Can my baby handle all of these vaccines?

Yes. Many parents worry that multiple vaccines will overload their child's immune system. But children are exposed to hundreds of germs every day. In fact, a common cold or sore throat will put a greater burden on your child's immune system than vaccines.

What if my baby has a cold or fever, or is taking antibiotics? Can he or she still get vaccinated?

Yes. Your child can still get vaccinated if he or she has a mild illness, a low-grade fever, or is taking antibiotics. Talk with your pediatrician if you have questions.

Can I delay the vaccine schedule?

One of the best ways you can protect your child is to follow the recommended vaccine schedule. Any time you delay a vaccine, you're increasing your child's vulnerability to disease. In that case, talk with your pediatrician to adjust your schedule.

Do vaccines have side effects?

Vaccination is usually safe and most babies do not have any major problems as a result of immunization. However, some babies may develop certain side-effects to certain vaccines. Side-effects are usually minor and usually get better within a day or 2.

- Baby may have low-grade fever after some vaccinations. Doctor may recommend you to give paracetamol drops to relieve the symptoms.
- BCG – A lump appears 3-4 weeks after B.C.G. It may soften and discharge for up to 2 weeks. No medication is required. A small scar remains at the site. If a swelling appears and does not subside, contact your pediatrician.

- D.P.T. (Triple antigen) – There may be fever, pain, redness and swelling at the site of injection. A small, painless lump may remain for a few weeks. If fever is over 102 F and baby suffers from persistent crying or screaming, you must consult your pediatrician.
- MEASLES / MMR – A few babies may get fever 4-10 days after the vaccination. There may be associated cough, cold and mild rash.
- HIB / Typhoid vaccine – Mild pain or fever may occur. Paracetamol syrup may be given as recommended.
- Baby may be cranky due to fever and discomfort. Make sure to shower baby with lot of attention and comfort her.
- If you feel baby is suffering too much, don't hesitate to check with your pediatrician.

Things to Remember During Vaccination

Ensure to remember and administer the vaccine to your child as per the schedule. Discuss with your pediatrician if you miss giving a vaccine. He will recommend a suitable later date to administer the same.

In case your child has ongoing fever, discuss this with your pediatrician and he will help reschedule the administration of the vaccine at a later date if required.

Sometimes pediatricians might offer you the option to choose from a painless and a painful vaccine for your child. Ensure to discuss them with your pediatrician to make an informed decision.

A vaccination is usually followed by a fever for 1-2 days in your child. You can use sponge bath to reduce your child's temperature. However, if the fever doesn't go away in 1-2 days, reach out to your pediatrician for advice.

Always carry your immunizations record with you to all of your child's hospital visits and make sure the doctor signs and dates every immunization.

Taking some family member or spouse to assist you in vaccinating your child can be helpful. They will help in distracting and comforting your child before, during and after the shot. Carrying your baby's favorite toy also helps.



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This is general information issued in public interest.
Please contact your doctor for more details.

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