

More About Childhood & Adolescent Vaccines



Chickenpox (varicella) vaccine

Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox, which can be serious and even life-threatening, especially in babies, adults, and people with weakened immune systems. Symptoms include tiredness, a fever, and an itchy rash of blisters.

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine

DTaP vaccine protects against three serious diseases:

- Diphtheria is a serious infection that causes a thick covering in the back of the nose or throat. It can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and even death.
- Tetanus is a potentially deadly infection that causes painful muscle stiffness and lockjaw.
- Whooping cough, or pertussis, is a highly contagious disease known for uncontrollable, violent coughing that often makes it hard to breathe. It can be deadly for babies.

Flu vaccine

Seasonal flu vaccine protects against flu, a potentially serious, contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Changes in immune, heart, and lung functions during pregnancy make pregnant women more likely to get seriously ill from the flu. The flu may also increase the chances that the developing baby will have serious problems. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every year by the end of October, if possible.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine

Hib vaccine protects against Hib disease, which ranges from mild ear infections to serious bloodstream infections, pneumonia (infection in the lungs), and meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord). Hib disease can cause brain damage, hearing loss, or even death.

Hepatitis A vaccine

Hepatitis A vaccine protects against a serious, contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. Symptoms can include fever, loss of appetite, tiredness, stomach pain, vomiting, dark urine, and yellow skin and eyes. Infected children may not have symptoms, but may still pass the disease to others.

Hepatitis B vaccine

Hepatitis B vaccine protects against hepatitis B, a virus that can cause chronic swelling of the liver and possible lifelong complications. Nine out of 10 infants who contract hepatitis B from their mothers become chronically infected.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

HPV vaccine protects against a common infection that can cause certain cancers in men and women. While most HPV infections go away on their own, infections that don't go away can cause

- cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women;
- cancers of the penis in men;
- and cancers of the anus and back of the throat (oropharynx) in men and women.

Some HPV infections can also cause genital warts.

Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine

Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine protects against three serious diseases:

- The measles virus can cause a fever that can get very high, a distinctive rash, cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Sometimes, it can also cause diarrhea and ear infection. It can also lead to pneumonia (infection in the lungs), brain damage, deafness, and death.
- Mumps typically starts with a fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite. Then, most people's salivary glands swell, which causes puffy cheeks and a swollen jaw. Mumps is pretty mild in most people but can sometimes cause lasting problems, such as deafness, meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), and swelling of the brain, testicles, ovaries, or breasts.
- Rubella may cause a rash or fever, but many people have no symptoms. Rubella can cause miscarriage or serious birth defects in a developing baby if a woman is infected while she is pregnant. Infected children can spread rubella to pregnant women.

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine protects against some types of meningococcal bacteria, which can cause serious and even deadly infections, including meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord) and bloodstream infections.

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23)

PCV13 protects against 13 strains of pneumococcal bacteria and PPSV23 protects against 23 strains of pneumococcal bacteria. Both vaccines provide protection against illnesses like meningitis and bacteremia. PCV13 also provides protection against pneumonia. Talk to your doctor and child's doctor about which vaccines they recommend.

Polio (IPV) vaccine

IPV vaccine protects against polio, a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that can invade the brain and spinal cord. Polio can cause lifelong paralysis and even death.

Rotavirus (RV) vaccine

RV vaccine protects against a contagious virus that causes severe diarrhea, often with vomiting, fever, and abdominal pain, requiring hospitalization. It is most common in infants and young children. Adults who get rotavirus tend to have milder symptoms.

Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine

Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine protects against one type of meningococcal bacteria, which can cause serious and even deadly infections, including meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord) and bloodstream infections.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine

Tdap vaccine is a booster vaccine that protects older children and adults from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). When you get Tdap vaccine during pregnancy, your body will create protective antibodies against whooping cough and pass some of them to your baby before birth, providing some short-term, early protection.