

Why Immunize?



Prior to the creation of many of the vaccines available today, thousands of children became infected with diseases that often resulted in lifelong disabilities or, even worse, death. Thankfully, we now have the ability to immunize children against deadly, preventable diseases.

That's why we have to be diligent about vaccinating our children against illnesses. The fact that we don't see certain diseases anymore doesn't mean they no longer exist...it simply means the vaccines are working. They will continue to work, however, only as long as we continue to immunize our children.

16 Good Reasons to Vaccinate Your Child

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus (*Lockjaw*)
- Pertussis (*Whooping Cough*)
- HIB (*Haemophilus Influenzae Type B*)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Measles (*Ten Day, Red or Hard Measles*)
- Mumps
- Rubella (*German or Three day Measles*)
- Pneumococcal Disease
- Meningococcal Disease
- Polio
- Chickenpox (*Varicella*)
- Rotavirus
- Human Papillomavirus (*HPV*)

What vaccines will my child receive?

Public Health Officials in Iowa recommend the schedule below. Some physicians may vary this schedule to meet your infant's needs.

2 and 4 months old

DTaP, Polio, Hib, Hepatitis B, Prevnar & Rotavirus

6 months old

DTaP, Polio, Prevnar & Rotavirus

12-15 months old

DTaP, Hib, Hepatitis B, Prevnar, Hepatitis A, MMR, Varicella

4-6 years old

DTaP, Polio, MMR, Varicella

11-12 years old

Tdap (adult Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis), Hepatitis B (if not done previously), Meningococcal vaccine, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

15-18 years old

Tdap, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal vaccine, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV)- if not done previously





All infants should complete their basic series of immunizations before the age of 2 years. However, if your child has received no immunizations or only part of them, it is not too late to start or finish for complete protection.

Is there help available with the cost of immunization?

Many clinics in Iowa receive vaccine from a variety of sources, including the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Some of these sources provide vaccines at low or no cost to eligible families. Ask your health care Provider if they participate in the VFC program. A list of VFC providers by county, including local public health agencies can be found on the Iowa Department of Public Health website at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp.

Each child must meet VFC eligibility requirements which include:

- Child who has no health insurance coverage
- Child is American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Child is enrolled in Medicaid (Medicaid Greencard, Medicaid HMO (s), Medipass, and Medicaid as secondary health coverage)
- Child is underinsured
- Underinsured means the child has some type of health insurance, but the benefit plan does not include immunizations.

Children whose health insurance covers the cost of vaccinations are not eligible for VFC Program benefits, **even when the plan has a high deductible or the deductible has not been met.**

Remember!

Keep a personal record of your child's immunizations, it is considered a legal document. Do not depend on others to keep the record for you. State law requires your child be immunized before entering any licensed child care center or school- public or private. Each time your child receives vaccines, you should be given an updated immunization record.

For up-to-date and reliable information about each vaccine listed above, please visit <http://www.immunizationinfo.org/> or <http://www.vaccineinformation.org/>.



