

WHAT ARE VACCINES?



A **vaccine** is a preparation used to stimulate the body's immune response. Vaccines work by **imitating** an infection to teach the body how to react when exposed to a real infection. Three ways to imitate an infection are by using...

1. A weakened or dead bacteria or virus
2. Only the external surface or genetic material of a bacteria or virus
3. A bacterial toxin that has been treated to make it non-toxic

Many vaccines require multiple doses. This is **not** because the vaccine is bad or ineffective. Multiple doses just help to build more complete protection.

Some vaccines may cause side effects such as fever, tiredness, or soreness. This is **normal** and expected. Although vaccines are safe, they do introduce new substances to the body, so the body will naturally react to that.



WHICH VACCINES DOES MY CHILD NEED AND WHEN?



Vaccine	CDC Recommended Age(s) for Dose(s)
HepB (Hepatitis B)	Birth, 1-2 months, 6-18 months
RV (Rotavirus)	2 months, 4 months, 6 months
DTaP (Diphtheria, Pertussis, & Tetanus)	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months, 4-6 years
Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B)	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12-15 months
PVC13/PVC15 (Pneumococcal disease)	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12-15 months
IPV (Polio)	2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, 4-6 years
MMR (Measles, Mumps, & Rubella)	12-15 months, 4-6 years
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	12-15 months, 4-6 years
HepA (Hepatitis A)	2 doses 6 months apart, both between age 12 and 23 months
Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis)	11-12 years
HPV (Human Papillomavirus)	2 doses 6-12 months apart, the first dose at age 11-12 years
MenACWY (Meningococcal disease)	11-12 years, 16 years
Flu (Influenza)	1 dose yearly starting at age 6 months

For more information, visit the CDC website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html>



Vaccines do NOT cause autism. Numerous studies by the CDC and Institute of Medicine have rejected the theory that vaccines or vaccine ingredients lead to autism. Visit the CDC website to learn more:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html>

