

# National Immunization Awareness Month Toolkit



Using Updated information from CDC 6/27/17

## About this Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). The purpose of NIAM is to celebrate the benefits of vaccination and highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. To assist with your communication efforts during NIAM and beyond, the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC), in collaboration with CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, has developed a communication toolkit. The toolkit can be found at <https://www.nphic.org/niam>

*Four messages are central throughout the toolkit:*

- 1. Vaccines protect against serious diseases.*
- 2. These diseases still exist and outbreaks do occur.*
- 3. Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.*
- 4. Vaccines are very safe.*

The toolkit is comprehensive and covers the entire lifespan from newborn to elderly, highlighting specific vaccinations that are important to the respective life stage. **The beginning of August highlights the return of children to school, thus we will focus exclusively on the immunizations that are important for School-Age Children.** However, for other ages, please visit the previous website for more information.

## School-Age Children (Birth - 6 years old)



- ★ **One** of the most important things a parent can do to protect their child's health is to ensure that they are vaccinating their children according to the recommended immunization schedule. At schools, diseases can quickly spread when children aren't vaccinated. Due to several factors at schools such as poor hand hygiene, poor cough etiquette, and crowd interactions, schools are prone to having outbreaks.
- ★ **When** children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk for disease and can spread disease to others in their play groups, child care centers, classrooms and communities – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer and other health conditions.
- ★ **Additionally**, states may require children who are entering child care or school to be vaccinated against certain diseases. Colleges and universities may have their own requirements, especially for students living in residence halls. Parents should check with their child's doctor, school or the local health department to learn about the requirements in their state or county.

### Vaccinating According to the recommended immunization schedule provides your child with safe and effective protection against preventable diseases.

- ★ Between the time your child is born and when they go off to college, they'll get vaccines to protect against a number of serious diseases.
- ★ Some children at your child care center may be too young to get certain vaccines, and are therefore vulnerable to diseases.
  - By vaccinating your child according to the recommended schedule, you'll be protecting their classmates as well.
  - You will also be helping to protect people in your community who cannot receive vaccines for medical reasons (e.g., people with weakened immune systems, such as some people with cancer and people who have received transplants).

## Check your child's vaccine records to make sure they are up to date on all the vaccines they need to stay healthy.

- ★ Keep your child's vaccine records current and in a safe place.
- ★ If you haven't already, check your child's immunization record and schedule a visit to their physician or clinic. Doing so now will avoid a potential last minute rush and will help ensure there are no surprises on the first day of school.
- ★ Most schools require children to be up to date on vaccinations before enrolling or starting school in order to protect the health of all students. If you are unsure of your state's school immunization requirements, check with your child's doctor, school, child care provider, college health center, or local health department.

## Many vaccine-preventable diseases can easily spread in child care and school settings. Protecting your children from preventable diseases will help keep them healthy and in school.

- ★ Schools are prone to outbreaks of infectious diseases, and school-age children can further spread disease to their families and others with whom they come in contact.
- ★ When a child comes down with an illness such as whooping cough, chickenpox or the flu, he or she may miss at least several days of school while recovering – and somebody will need to stay home to provide care and make trips to the doctor.
  - Children can spread diseases to newborns too young to have received all doses of recommended vaccines, or to people with weakened immune systems, such as some people with cancer and transplant recipients who are also at higher risk of disease.
- ★ Most people in the United States are protected against measles through vaccination, so measles cases in the U.S. are uncommon compared to the number of cases that occurred before a vaccine was available.
  - However, measles is brought into the United States every year by unvaccinated travelers who get measles while they are in other countries. Most measles cases imported into the U.S. come from U.S. residents. They can spread measles to other people who are not protected against measles, which sometimes leads to outbreaks. This can occur in communities with unvaccinated people.
  - Since measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000, the annual number of people reported to have measles ranged from a low of 37 people in

2004 to a high of 667 people in 2014. In 2016, there were 70 provisionally reported cases.

## Vaccines are very safe.

- ★ Vaccines are thoroughly tested before licensing and carefully monitored after they are licensed to ensure that they are very safe.
- ★ Vaccines are the safest and most effective way to prevent several diseases. They not only protect vaccinated individuals but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.
- ★ Currently, the United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history. The country's long-standing vaccine safety system ensures that vaccines are as safe as possible.

## What Vaccines do You need?

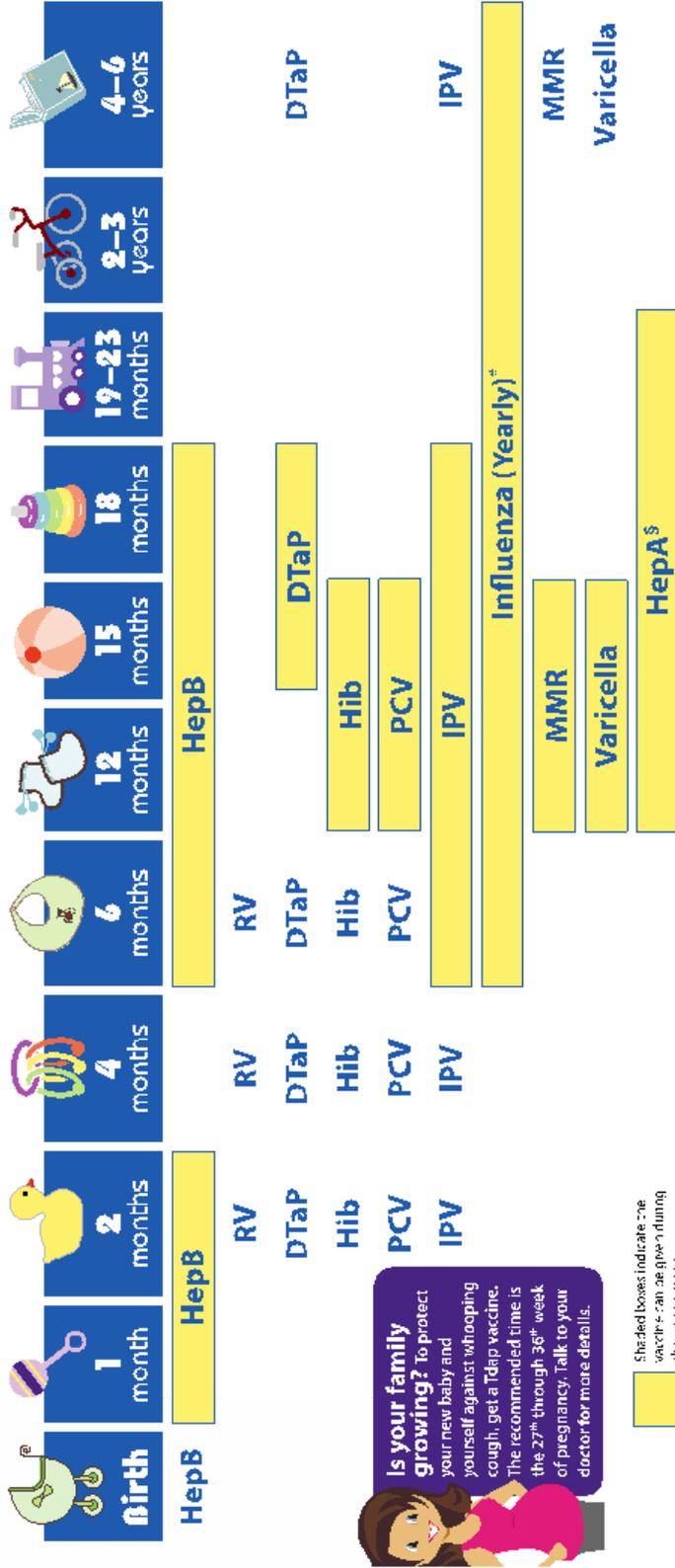
*Adults need vaccines too! Take this quiz to find out which vaccines you may need.*



## What can your chapter do?

- ★ Use this toolkit to spread the word about immunizations
- ★ Use social media to raise awareness about immunizations
- ★ Take this quiz, and encourage others, to see what vaccines you may need
  - <https://www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/>
- ★ Organize a day, using resources from the CDC and National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC), to table in a public area and raise awareness

# 2017 Recommended Immunizations for Children from Birth Through 6 Years Old



**NOTE:** If your child misses a shot, you don't need to start over, just go back to your child's doctor for the next shot. Talk with your child's doctor if you have questions about vaccines.

**FOOTNOTES:**

- \* Two doses, given at least four weeks apart, are recommended for children aged 6 months through 8 years of age who are getting an influenza (flu) vaccine for the first time and for some other children in this age group.
- † Two doses of HepA vaccine are needed for lasting protection. The first dose of HepA vaccine should be given between 17 months and 23 months of age. The second dose should be given 6 to 18 months later. HepA vaccination may be given to any child. 17 months and older to protect against HepA. Children and adolescents who did not receive the HepA vaccine and are at high-risk, should be vaccinated against HepA.

*If your child has any medical conditions that put him at risk for infection or is traveling outside the United States, talk to your child's doctor about additional vaccines that he may need.*



For more information, call toll free  
**1-800-CDC-INFO** (1-800-232-4636)  
 or visit  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents)



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
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## Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them

Disease	Vaccine	Disease spread by	Disease symptoms	Disease complications
<b>Chickenpox</b>	<b>Varicella vaccine</b> protects against chickenpox	Air, direct contact	Rash, tiredness, headache, fever	Infected blisters, bleeding disorders, encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
<b>Diphtheria</b>	<b>DTaP*</b> vaccine protects against diphtheria.	Air, direct contact	Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands in neck	Swelling of the heart muscle, heart failure, coma, paralysis, death
<b>Hib</b>	<b>Hib vaccine</b> protects against <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b.	Air, direct contact	May be no symptoms unless bacteria enter the blood	Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), intellectual disability, epiglottitis (life-threatening infection that can block the windpipe and lead to serious breathing problems), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	<b>HepA vaccine</b> protects against hepatitis A.	Direct contact, contaminated food or water	May be no symptoms, fever, stomach pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine	Liver failure, arthritis (joint pain), kidney, pancreatic, and blood disorders
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	<b>HepB vaccine</b> protects against hepatitis B.	Contact with blood or body fluids	May be no symptoms, fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), joint pain	Chronic liver infection, liver failure, liver cancer
<b>Influenza (Flu)</b>	<b>Flu vaccine</b> protects against influenza.	Air, direct contact	Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
<b>Measles</b>	<b>MMR**</b> vaccine protects against measles	Air, direct contact	Rash, fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye	Encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death
<b>Mumps</b>	<b>MMR**</b> vaccine protects against mumps.	Air, direct contact	Swollen salivary glands (under the jaw), fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain	Meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), encephalitis (brain swelling), inflammation of testicles or ovaries, deafness
<b>Pertussis</b>	<b>DTaP*</b> vaccine protects against pertussis (whooping cough).	Air, direct contact	Severe cough, runny nose, apnea (a pause in breathing in infants)	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death
<b>Polio</b>	<b>IPV</b> vaccine protects against polio.	Air, direct contact, through the mouth	May be no symptoms, sore throat, fever, nausea, headache	Paralysis, death
<b>Pneumococcal</b>	<b>PCV</b> vaccine protects against pneumococcus.	Air, direct contact	May be no symptoms, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)	Bacteremia (blood infection), meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), death
<b>Rotavirus</b>	<b>RV</b> vaccine protects against rotavirus.	Through the mouth	Diarrhea, fever, vomiting	Severe diarrhea, dehydration
<b>Rubella</b>	<b>MMR**</b> vaccine protects against rubella	Air, direct contact	Children infected with rubella virus sometimes have a rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes	Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects
<b>Tetanus</b>	<b>DTaP*</b> vaccine protects against tetanus.	Exposure through cuts in skin	Stiffness in neck and abdominal muscles, difficulty swallowing, muscle spasms, fever	Broken bones, breathing difficulty, death

\* DTaP combines protection against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

\*\* MMR combines protection against measles, mumps, and rubella.

Last updated: December 2016; 150729814

## References

Immunization Schedules. (2017, April 13). Retrieved July 31, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child.htm>

National Immunization Awareness Month - National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC). (n.d.). Retrieved July 31, 2017, from <https://www.nphic.org/niam>

Redirect | HOME page for Vaccines and Immunizations site | CDC. (n.d.). Retrieved July 31, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>