

Immunization FAQs

What do vaccines do?

- Vaccines work by preparing the body to fight illness. Each contains either a dead or a weakened germ that causes a particular disease.
- Immunization is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your children against infectious disease.

Why immunize?

- Diseases (like polio and diphtheria) are becoming very rare in the U.S. Of course, they are becoming rare largely because we have been vaccinating against them.
- Unless we can eliminate the disease, it is important to keep immunizing. Even if there are only a few cases of disease today, if we take away the protection given by vaccination, more and more people will become infected and will spread disease to others. Soon we will undo the progress we have made over the years.

Are vaccines safe?

- Yes. Every vaccine is tested and must meet strict safety standards set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This can take up to 10 years and even after being opened to the public, every immunization is monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- There is absolutely no link between vaccines and autism
 - Some people have had concerns that ASD might be linked to the vaccines children receive, but studies have shown that there is no link between receiving vaccines and developing ASD. In 2011, an Institute of Medicine (IOM) [report](#) on eight vaccines given to children and adults found that with rare exceptions, these vaccines are very safe.

Why so many vaccines at one time?

- Babies are exposed to many more germs every day than what they will get in the vaccines.
- Although infants do receive many shots, they are given at the time babies are most at risk of illness and serious complications from the disease.
- Vaccines schedules are well-studied to make sure that it is safe to give them all at once.

Can I spread out my child's immunizations, so they're not receiving so many in a short period of time?

- The recommended schedule is designed to protect children when they are most vulnerable to the diseases vaccines prevent.
- Non-standard schedules that spread out vaccines or start when a child is older do not provide protection against serious illness when infants and young children are most at risk for the diseases.

Can immunizations cause a bad reaction?

The most common reactions to vaccines are minor and include:

- Redness and swelling where the shot was given
- Fever
- Soreness at the site where the shot was given

For Vaccine Schedules and Guidelines visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

Frequently asked questions gathered from:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>