

Your Baby's First Vaccines

What You Need to Know

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis.
 Hojas de Información Sobre Vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite <http://www.immunize.org/vis>

Your baby will get these vaccines today:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DTaP | <input type="checkbox"/> Polio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hib | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotavirus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B | <input type="checkbox"/> PCV13 |

(Provider: Check appropriate boxes.)

Ask your doctor about "combination vaccines," which can reduce the number of shots your baby needs.

Combination vaccines are as safe and effective as these vaccines when given separately.



These vaccines protect your baby from 8 serious diseases:

- diphtheria
- tetanus
- pertussis (whooping cough)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)
- hepatitis B
- polio
- rotavirus
- pneumococcal disease

ABOUT THIS VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT

Please read this Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) before your baby gets his or her immunizations, and take it home with you afterward. Ask your doctor if you have any questions.

This VIS tells you about the benefits and risks of six routine childhood vaccines. It also contains information about reporting an adverse reaction and about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, and how to get more information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. (Individual VISs are also available for these vaccines.)

HOW VACCINES WORK

Immunity from Disease: When children get sick with an infectious disease, their immune system usually produces protective "antibodies," which keep them from getting the same disease again. But getting sick is not fun, and it can be dangerous or even fatal.

Immunity from Vaccines: Vaccines are made with the same bacteria or viruses that cause disease, but they have been weakened or killed – or only parts of them are used – to make them safe. A child's immune system produces antibodies, just as it would after exposure to the actual disease. This means the child will develop immunity in the same way, but without having to get sick first.

VACCINE BENEFITS: WHY GET VACCINATED?

Diseases have injured and killed many children over the years in the United States. **Polio** paralyzed about 37,000 and killed about 1,700 every year in the 1950s. **Hib disease** was once the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children under 5 years of age. About 15,000 people died each year from **diphtheria** before there was a vaccine. Up to 70,000 children a year were hospitalized because of **rotavirus** disease. **Hepatitis B** can cause liver damage and cancer in 1 child out of 4 who are infected, and **tetanus** kills 1 out of every 5 who get it.

Thanks mostly to vaccines, these diseases are not nearly as common as they used to be. But they have not disappeared, either. Some are common in other countries, and if we stop vaccinating they will come back here. This has already happened in some parts of the world. When vaccination rates go down, disease rates go up.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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