

A Wellness Newsletter for AvMed Members

Road to WELLfluent

Embrace better health.

Catch Up on Well-Child Visits and Recommended Vaccinations

Families have been doing their part by staying at home as much as possible to help stop the spread of COVID-19. An unfortunate result is that many children missed check-ups and recommended childhood vaccinations. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend every child continues to receive recommended vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These are challenging times, but you have the power to help keep your child healthy. Making sure that your child sees their doctor for well-child visits and recommended vaccines is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and community from serious diseases that are easily spread.

Well-child visits and recommended vaccinations are essential and help make sure children stay healthy and are protected. Children who are not protected by vaccines are more likely to get diseases like measles and whooping cough. These diseases are extremely contagious and can be very serious, especially for babies and young children. In recent years, there have been outbreaks of these diseases, especially in communities with low vaccination rates.

Well-child visits are essential for many reasons, including:

- Tracking growth and developmental milestones.
- Discussing any concerns about your child's health.
- Getting scheduled vaccinations to prevent illnesses like measles and whooping cough (pertussis) and other serious diseases.



As schools, day cares, and camps begin to reopen and offer in-person learning and care, it's particularly important for parents to work with their child's doctor or nurse to make sure they get caught up on missed well-child visits and recommended vaccines.

Extra Steps Are Being Taken to See Children Safely. If your child is due for a well-child visit, call the doctor's office and ask about the special measures they have in place and ways they are safely offering well-child visits. Many medical offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time.

Routinely Recommended Vaccines for Children and Adolescents

Getting children and adolescents caught up with recommended vaccinations is the best way to protect them from a variety of vaccinepreventable diseases. The schedules below outline the vaccines recommended for each age group.



Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them

Disease	Vaccine	Disease spread by	Disease symptoms	Disease complications
Chickenpox	Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox.	Air, direct contact	Rash, tiredness, headache, fever	Infected blisters, bleeding disorders, encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
Diphtheria	DTaP* 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
Hib	Hib vaccine 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
Hepatitis A	HepA vaccine 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, arthralgia (joint pain), kidney, pancreatic and blood disorders
Hepatitis B	HepB vaccine 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
Influenza (Flu)	Flu vaccine protects against influenza.	Air, direct contact	Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
Measles	MMR** vaccine protects against measles.	Air, direct contact	Rash, fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye	Encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death
Mumps	MMR**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), inflam- mation of testicles or ovaries, deafness
Pertussis	DTaP* 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
Polio	IPV vaccine protects against polio.	Air, direct contact, through the mouth	May be no symptoms, sore throat, fever, nausea, headache	Paralysis, death
Pneumococcal	PCV13 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
Rotavirus	RV vaccine protects against rotavirus.	Through the mouth	Diarrhea, fever, vomiting	Severe diarrhea, dehydration
Rubella	MMR** vaccine protects against rubella.	Air, direct contact	Sometimes rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes	Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscar- riage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects
Tetanus	DTaP* 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.

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

		Tdap Meningococcal						MMR			
	Flu Influenza	Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis	HPV Human papillomavirus	MenACWY	MenB	Pneumococcal	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis A	Polio	Measles, mumps, rubella	Chickenpox Varicella
7-8 Years											
9-10 Years											
11-12 Years											
13-15 Years											
16-18 Years											
More information:	Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every year.	All 11- through 12- year olds should get one shot of Tdap.	All 11- through 12- year olds should get a 2-shot series of HPV vaccine. A 3-shot series is needed for those with weakened immune systems and those who start the series at 15 years or older.	All 11- through 12- year olds should get one shot of meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY). A booster shot is recommended at age 16.	Teens 16–18 years old may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccine.						
These shaded boxes indicate when the vaccine is recommended for all children unless your doctor tells given if a child is catching up on missed vaccines.											

These shaded boxes indicate the vaccine is recommended for children with certain health or lifestyle conditions that put them at an increased risk for serious disease. See vaccine-specific recommendations at <u>www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/</u>.

This shaded box indicates children not at increased risk may get the vaccine if they wish after speaking to a provider.



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Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them

Disease	Vaccine	Disease spread by	Disease symptoms	Disease complications			
Chickenpox	Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox.	Air, direct contact	Rash, tiredness, headache, fever	Infected blisters, bleeding disorders, encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs)			
Diphtheria	Tdap* and Td** vaccines protect against diphtheria.	Air, direct contact	Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands in neck	Swelling of the heart muscle, heart failure, coma, paralysis, death			
Hepatitis A	HepA vaccine 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, arthralgia (joint pain), kidney, pancreatic and blood disorders			
Hepatitis B	HepB vaccine 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			
Human Papillomavirus	HPV vaccine protects against human papillomavirus.	Direct skin contact	May be no symptoms, genital warts	Cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, oropharyngeal cancers			
Influenza (Flu)	Flu vaccine protects against influenza.	Air, direct contact	Fever, muscle pain, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)			
Measles	MMR*** vaccine protects against measles.	Air, direct contact	Rash, fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye	Encephalitis (brain swelling), pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death			
Meningococcal Disease	MenACWY and MenB vaccines protect against meningococcal disease.	Air, direct contact	Sudden onset of fever, headache, and stiff neck, dark purple rash	Loss of limb, deafness, nervous system disorders, developmental disabilities, seizure disorder, stroke, death			
Mumps	MMR*** 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			
Pertussis	Tdap* vaccine protects against pertussis.	Air, direct contact	Severe cough, runny nose, apnea (a pause in breathing in infants)	Pneumonia (infection in the lungs), death			
Pneumococcal Disease	Pneumococcal vaccine protects against pneumococcal disease.	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			
Polio	Polio vaccine protects against polio.	Air, direct contact, through the mouth	May be no symptoms, sore throat, fever, nausea, headache	Paralysis, death			
Rubella	MMR*** vaccine protects against rubella.	Air, direct contact	Sometimes rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes	Very serious in pregnant women—can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, birth defects			
Tetanus	Tdap* and Td ** vaccines protect against tetanus.	Exposure through cuts on skin	Stiffness in neck and abdominal muscles, difficulty swallowing, muscle spasms, fever	Broken bones, breathing difficulty, death			
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***MMR combines protection against measles, mumps, and rubella.

If you have any questions about your child's vaccines, talk to your child's doctor or nurse.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/visit/vaccination-during-COVID-19.html

Be Safe in the Sun—4 Ways to Prevent UV Damage:

Go for the shade. Avoid or limit sun exposure during the hours where the sun's UV rays are most intense—between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wear protective clothing. Wearing long sleeve shirts and pants is ideal. Linens and thin cottons are probably the most comfortable fabrics during the warm summer months—as well as a broadbrimmed hat that shades the face, ears, and neck.

Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen. Generously apply water-resistant sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) value of at least 15 or higher to shield against sun-induced skin problems. The "broad spectrum" variety protects against ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Tip: Reapply sunscreen every two hours and after swimming and sweating, even if it's labeled "water-resistant".

Pick up those stylish sunglasses. Effective sunglasses should block glare and 99 to 100% of UV rays and have a wraparound shape to protect the eyes from all angles.

For more information go to cancer.org/sunsafety or call the 24/7 help line at 1-800-227-2345.

Source: https://www.cancer.org/healthy/besafe-in-sun.html



AvMed Wellness Tip:

Summer is the perfect time to focus on your health. So why not get a jump-start to a healthier you by visiting AvMed's website to complete your **Personal Health Assessment** (**PHA**).

This user-friendly online tool helps you understand your current health status, identify potential health risks and set realistic improvement goals based on your specific needs. By completing this confidential questionnaire, you will receive a personalized scorecard including recommendations and resources to help you target possible health risks and opportunities to reduce healthcare costs.

To get started visit **AvMed.org**. Log into your account and click on **Health and Wellness** for more information.





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