



Immunizations

Why immunize?

Immunizations help the body's immune system do its work by developing protection against future infections, as if we were exposed to the natural disease. The good news is, with vaccines, you don't have to get sick to be protected.

Why immunize children?

Children under 5 are especially susceptible to disease because their immune systems have not built up the necessary defenses to fight infection. By immunizing on time (by age 2), you can protect your child from disease and also protect others at school or daycare.

Why immunize preteens/adolescents?

Immunity from some childhood vaccines can decrease over time, so people need to get another dose of many vaccines during their pre-teen years. Also, as children move into adolescence, they are at greater risk of catching certain diseases.

Why do adults need immunizations?

Some adults incorrectly assume that the vaccines they received as children will protect them for the rest of their lives. Generally this is true, except that:

- Some adults were never vaccinated as children
- Newer vaccines were not available when some adults were children
- Immunity can begin to fade over time
- As we age, we become more susceptible to serious disease caused by common infections (e.g., flu, pneumococcus)

What if we stopped vaccinating?

Diseases that are almost unknown would stage a comeback. Before long we would see epidemics of diseases that are nearly under control today. More children would get sick and more would die.

What about travel immunizations?

Vaccines are recommended to protect travelers from illnesses present in other parts of the world and to prevent the importation of infectious diseases across international borders. Which vaccinations you need depends on a number of factors including your destination, whether you will be spending time in rural areas, the season of the year you are traveling, your age, health status, and previous immunizations.

The only vaccine required by International Health Regulations is yellow fever vaccination for travel to certain countries in sub-Saharan Africa and tropical South America. Meningococcal vaccination is required by the government of Saudi Arabia for annual travel during the Hajj.

What if my child doesn't start immunizations on time, or gets behind schedule?

It is not too late. Most shots can be given at any age, and a child who has gotten behind does not have to start over. The shots already given will still count, and the child will develop immunity.

Most children's vaccines are available on a sliding fee scale. Call 660-7300 to learn more about specific immunizations.

Where and When are immunizations available?

Health Department Clinical Services
2716 W. Central
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday
Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Call 660-7340 for Mobile Clinic Locations

(See Immunization Schedule on Following Pages)



Schedule for Child and Adolescent Immunizations

Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule													
Legend		Range of recommended ages			Catch up immunization				Certain high-risk groups				
Vaccine	Age	Birth	1 mo.	2 mo.	4 mo.	6 mo.	12 mo.	15 mo.	18 mo.	19-23 mo.	2-3 yr.	4-6 yr.	11-12 yr.
DTaP				X	X	X		X	X			X	X
Polio				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Hib				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hepatitis A							X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hepatitis B	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rotavirus				X	X	X							
MMR							X	X				X	X
Varicella							X	X				X	X
Pneumococcal				X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Meningococcal											X	X	X
Human Papillomavirus													X (3 doses)
Influenza					recommended annually for all children age 6 months-5 years; after 5 years recommended for high-risk children								



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working for you

Schedule for Adult Immunizations

Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule				
Range of recommended ages		Certain high-risk groups		
Vaccine	Age	19–49 yrs.	50–64 yrs.	65 yrs. and older
Tetanus, diphtheria (Td)		Booster dose every 10 years throughout adult life		
Human Papillomavirus		3 doses—females under the age of 26		
Influenza		1 dose annually for persons with exposure indications	1 dose annually	
Pneumonia		1 dose for persons with exposure indications		1 dose
Hepatitis B		3 doses (0, 1–2, 4–6 months) for persons with exposure indications		
Zoster			1 dose for persons over the age of 60	
Hepatitis A		2 doses (0, 6–12 months or 0, 6-18 months) for persons with exposure indications		
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)		1 or 2 doses	1 dose	
Varicella		2 doses (0, 4–8 weeks)		
Meningitis		1 dose for persons with exposure indications		