

# Preventive Medicine

September, 2002

## Immunization Protects Children 2002 Immunization Schedule

Regular checkups at your pediatrician's office or local health clinic are an important way to keep children healthy. By making sure that your child gets immunized on time, you can provide the best available defense against many dangerous childhood diseases. Immunizations protect children against: hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, pneumococcal infections, and chickenpox. All of these immunizations need to be given before children are 2 years old in order for them to be protected during their most vulnerable period. Are your child's immunizations up-to-date?

**1. Hepatitis B vaccine (Hep B).** All infants should receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine soon after birth and before hospital discharge. Only monovalent hepatitis B vaccine can be used for the birth dose. The second dose should be given at least 4 weeks after the first dose. The last dose in the vaccination series should not be administered before age 6 months.

**2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP).** The fourth dose of DTaP may be administered as early as age 12 months, provided 6 months have elapsed since the third dose and the child is unlikely to return at age 15-18 months. **Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td)** is recommended at age 11-12 years if at least 5 years have elapsed since the last dose of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine. Subsequent routine Td boosters are recommended every 10 years.

**3. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine.** Three Hib conjugate vaccines are licensed

for infant use. If PRP-OMP (PedvaxHIB® or ComVax® [Merck]) is administered at ages 2 and 4 months, a dose at age 6 months is not required. DTaP/Hib combination products should not be used for primary immunization in infants at ages 2, 4 or 6 months, but can be used as boosters following any Hib vaccine.

**4. Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).** An all-IPV schedule is recommended for routine childhood polio vaccination in the United States. All children should receive four doses of IPV at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years.

**5. Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR).** The first dose and that both doses are administered beginning at or after age 12 months.

The second dose of MMR is recommended routinely at age 4-6 years but may be administered during any visit.

**6. Varicella vaccine.** Varicella vaccine is recommended at any visit at or after age 12 months for susceptible children, i.e. those who lack a reliable history of chickenpox.

**7. Pneumococcal vaccine.** The heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is recommended for all children age 2-23 months. It is also recommended for certain children age 24-59 months. **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV)** is recommended in addition to PCV for certain high-risk groups.

**8. Hepatitis A vaccine.** Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for use in selected states and regions, and for certain high-risk groups; consult your local public health authority.

**9. Influenza vaccine.** Influenza vaccine is recommended annually for children age > 6 months with certain risk factors (including but not limited to asthma, cardiac disease, sickle cell disease, HIV, diabetes; and can be administered to all others wishing to obtain immunity.

Remember to keep track of your child's immunizations it's the only way you can be sure

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your child is up-to-date. Also, check with your pediatrician or health clinic at each visit to find out if your child needs any booster shots or if any new vaccines have been recommended since this schedule was prepared.

If you don't have a pediatrician, call your local health department. Public health clinics usually have supplies of vaccine and may give shots free.

A federal program called Vaccines for children provides free vaccines including those without insurance coverage, all those who are enrolled in Medicaid, American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

**More information is available.** Call the National Immunization Information Hotline.

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***1-800-232-2522 (English)***

***1-800-232-0233 (Spanish)***

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#### IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

Vaccines	Ages
DPaT and Hib	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months and 4-5 years old
IPV	2 months, 4 month, 6-18 months and 4-6 years old
MMR	12- 15 months, 4-6 years
Hepatitis B	At birth, 1 month and 6 months
Chicken Pox	At 1 year old
PCV	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12-15 months
PPV	24 months
Hepatitis A	See health department.
Influenza	6 months and every year

[www.apa.org/family/parents/immunize.htm](http://www.apa.org/family/parents/immunize.htm)

[http://www.immunizationinfo.org/vaccineInfo/disease\\_stateinfo.cfm](http://www.immunizationinfo.org/vaccineInfo/disease_stateinfo.cfm)