

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Vaccination (Immunization, shots) is a healthy choice that can save a child's life. These serious diseases can still be found in our community and getting vaccinated is the only way to protect children.



In the case of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, unimmunized children may be excluded from school or child care.

BC's childhood immunization program is one of the best in the world. Free vaccines are provided to protect your child against these 15 diseases:

- Diphtheria
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib)
- Hepatitis B
- HPV (Human Papillomavirus)
- Influenza (flu)
- Measles (Red measles)
- Meningococcal disease
- Mumps
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Pneumococcal disease
- Polio
- Rotavirus
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus (Lockjaw)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

If your child has a medical condition you should consult your public health nurse or family doctor about their immunization needs. They may qualify for other free vaccines.

Your child may also benefit from other vaccines that can be purchased such as other meningococcal and travel vaccines.

Understanding BC's Childhood Immunization Schedule

What age do I start immunizing my child?

- 1st vaccines, 2 months
- 2nd vaccines, 4 months
- 3rd vaccines, 6 months
- 4th vaccines, 12 months
- 5th vaccines, 18 months
- School age:
 - Kindergarten entry, starting at age 4
 - Grade 6, 9
- Flu vaccine every year from 6 months of age



Follow the routine immunization schedule

For best protection, it's recommended that you follow the routine schedule and get all shots on time. Schedules that delay, withhold or space out vaccines are not recommended and can be risky.

Six reasons why it's best to follow the routine schedule:

1. The schedule is based on the best science of today.
2. The schedule is safe and works very well.
3. Your child will be protected as soon as they can be.
4. You will reduce your child's risk of anxiety and needle fear.
5. Whether vaccines are given together or one at a time, the risk of side effects is the same.
6. You will reduce the number of visits and time

Vaccine schedules can change

For the most up-to-date schedule and to learn more about immunizations, visit the website:

www.immunizebc.ca

Your Child's Record – Keep it in a safe place!

An immunization record will be required during the registration process at childcare, preschool and kindergarten entry. Without a record or proof of having had a disease, your child is considered unimmunized and unprotected.

Tip for record keeping: After each visit make sure your child's record is filled in by your vaccine provider. It's important because BC providers can't easily share records on your behalf at this time. So it's up to you to ensure your child's record is up-to-date and easy to find, as you will get asked for it many times throughout your child's life.