

# Why Immunizations Matter

## Supporting your child's health

### Why are immunizations important?

Vaccines are an important way to keep your child healthy and safe. Each year, about 300 children in the United States die from diseases that vaccines can prevent<sup>1</sup>. By getting vaccinated, your child's body can more easily fight off dangerous illnesses so they can grow up strong and healthy.

### What immunizations should your child get?

When a child has been vaccinated for the recommended vaccines for optimal health, they are considered to have Childhood Immunization Status (CIS-10)<sup>1</sup>. Childhood Immunization Status is made up of a combination of 10 different vaccines. Those vaccines are:

- **DTaP:** Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis
- **IPV:** Inactivated polio vaccine
- **MMR:** Measles, mumps, rubella
- **HiB:** Haemophilus influenza type B
- **HepB:** Hepatitis B
- **VZV:** Varicella (chickenpox)
- **PCV:** Pneumococcal conjugate
- **HepA:** Hepatitis A
- **RV:** Rotavirus
- **Influenza:** Flu

Adolescents also have recommended vaccines for optimal health. They are known as the Immunization for Adolescents IMA(2) series<sup>1</sup>. Those vaccines are:

- **Meningococcal**
- **Tdap:** Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis
- **HPV:** Human papillomavirus

### How can you protect your child?

**Schedule regular checkups:** Talk to your doctor about vaccines and when they should be given to your child.

**Stay informed:** Understand the vaccination schedule and make sure your child gets the necessary immunizations on time.

**Ask questions:** If you have concerns or questions about vaccines, speak with a healthcare provider who understands your family's unique needs and concerns.

### Did you know?

Vaccines go through a lot of testing to make sure they are **safe**. Even after a vaccine is approved, experts from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other organizations continue to check to make sure they are still safe.

## Need help?

Call Iowa Total Care Member Services at 1-833-404-1061 (TTY: 711) if you need help with:

- Scheduling an interpreter for your appointments.
- Finding a provider.

## Take action now!

Don't wait. Take these steps today to protect your child's future. Vaccines are safe, effective, and critical to your child's health and well-being.

## Sources

1. Center for Disease Control. 2024, August 9. Vaccines for Your Children, Developing Safe and Effective Vaccines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/about/developing-safe-effective-vaccines.html>.

Search for additional resources in your community at [IowaTotalCare.Findhelp.com](https://IowaTotalCare.Findhelp.com).



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