

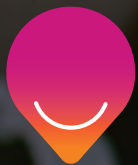
Just Ask

6 common questions about vaccines —
and where to find the answers



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website to
find out
more!

 **WellCare**[®]
of Kentucky



There's just a lot of information, and it's hard to know what's true and what's not. And if there's any risk, I'd rather not take it.

CASSANDRA, MOM OF TWO



Have questions? Just Ask.

Have questions about child vaccines? You're not alone. Many parents do. With so much information out there, it's hard to know what's true and what's not. So talk to someone you trust — like your child's doctor. They want to answer your questions. They know you and your child. And together, you can create a plan that's right for you.

This booklet has some common questions plus where to find info about vaccines. It also has a chart of the shots your kids need and when. The QR code on each page links to a website with more information and a video about talking with your child's doctor. All so you can make sure your child gets the best care available.



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6 questions you may want to ask

Here are some common questions and ideas for talking with your doctor.

Why does my child need so many vaccines?

You may be worried about the number of shots your baby needs at one time. Your doctor can tell you why the timing matters and how your baby is likely to react.

Don't babies have natural immunity?

Babies do, but it fades quickly. Talk to your doctor about what protection the shots can add for your child.

Are the ingredients in vaccines safe for my child?

Ask your doctor about what's in each vaccine. Your doctor can tell you what's been done to be sure it is safe for your child.

Haven't we gotten rid of most of these diseases?

Your doctor can explain the dangers of these illnesses for young children. And why we still need to protect against them.

What kind of side effects do these vaccines cause?

Side effects, if any, are usually very mild. Your doctor can tell you what they've seen and how to handle it.

Can I delay some vaccines if I'm planning to get them eventually?

Ask your doctor about the reasons behind the schedule and timing.

» More questions?

Write them down here, and take this with you to your child's next doctor's visit.



Tips for talking with your child's doctor

Office visits can be busy — and the time can go by fast. If you have questions you want to ask the doctor, it helps to be prepared. Here are some tips to get you rolling.

- 📌 **Write down your questions.** That way you won't forget them and having a list makes asking easier.
- 📌 **Let the nurse know.** If you feel okay doing it, tell the nurse or medical assistant that you have some questions you'd like to ask the doctor. He or she can let the doctor know to ask you for your questions.
- 📌 **Be ready early.** Babies start getting vaccinations at 2 months. That's a great time to be ready with your questions.
- 📌 **Missed your chance?** If you forget to ask during a visit, don't worry. You can also call the office later or reach out directly to your doctor via email.
- 📌 **Need help to start?** Try saying things like, "I was wondering..." or "What should I know about..." or "How can I..." to get the conversation going.



Find out more

Here are some reputable online sites that can help:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) general information on vaccines

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>

Food and Drug Administration guide for parents and caregivers

<https://www.fda.gov/vaccines>

National Institutes of Health on why vaccines matter

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/vaccines>



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Keep in mind...

All vaccines are tested by the Food and Drug Administration for safety.

Most children react mildly, if at all, to vaccines. They may be fussy or sore or have a low grade fever for a few days. Severe reactions are **very rare**.

No links between autism and vaccines have been found. There have been many studies on this.

Your child's health is your **top priority** and your doctor's. Your child's doctor would not give vaccinations if he or she felt they were too risky.



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Being a new parent is overwhelming in itself. The vaccine schedule can make it feel even more so. As doctors, we're here to make sure we answer all your questions and do what's best for your child.

CHIRAG PATEL, M.D., MHCDS

Vaccine Schedule

So many shots. So much protection. It can be confusing. If you have questions about this schedule, talk with your doctor.

Birth	1 Month	2 Months	4 Months
RSV Antibody ¹ Hepatitis B: Dose 1	Hepatitis B: Dose 2 ²	Rotavirus: Dose 1 DTaP: Dose 1 Hib: Dose 1 Pneumococcal: Dose 1 Polio: Dose 1	Rotavirus : Dose 2 DTaP: Dose 2 Hib: Dose 2 Pneumococcal: Dose 2 Polio: Dose 2
6 Months	12–15 Months	15–18 Months	4–6 Years
Hepatitis B: Dose 3 ⁴ Rotavirus: Dose 3 ⁴ DTaP: Dose 3 Hib: Dose 3 ⁴ Pneumococcal: Dose 3 Polio: Dose 3 ³ Flu ⁵	Hib: Dose 4 Pneumococcal: Dose 4 MMR: Dose 1 Chickenpox: Dose 1 Hepatitis A ⁶	DTaP: Dose 4	DTaP: Dose 5 Polio: Dose 4 MMR: Dose 2 Chickenpox: Dose 2

¹ Can be given birth through 19 months. Depends on mother's RSV vaccine status and child's health status.

² Can be given in month 1 or 2. ³ Can be given from 6 months through 18 months. ⁴ Depends on child's health status.

⁵ Every year. Two doses for some children. ⁶ 2 doses separated by 6 months.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/child-easyread.html>



Just Ask

If you have questions about vaccines, don't ask around. Ask your child's doctor. Your doctor knows you and your child best and can offer advice on the risks and benefits.

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SM_Section1557Coord@centene.com

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Room 509F, HHH Building

Washington, D.C. 20201

1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html>