



# IMMUNIZATIONS

## ***What are Immunizations?***

Babies are born with protection (immunity) that they get from their mothers. But because the protection from certain diseases lasts only for a short time, the baby needs more protection in the form of immunizations (vaccinations).

Immunizations use a very small amount of a killed or weakened germ that causes the specific disease. It makes the body act as if it were a real infection. The body fights off the “infection” and remembers the germ so that it can fight the germ quickly should it enter the body later.

Your child’s health care provider will decide the best immunizations and schedule for your child. However there is a basic schedule that you can use as a guide.

## ***Hepatitis B (HepB) Vaccine***

- First dose soon after birth and before leaving the hospital
- Second dose at least 4 weeks after the first dose (one month of age)
- Third dose at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose (4 months of age)
- Last dose in the series after 24 weeks (6 months) of age.

## ***Diphtheria and tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) (DtaP)***

- First dose at 2 months of age
- Second dose at 4 months of age
- Third dose at 6 months of age
- Forth dose at 12-18 months of age (at lease 6 months after the third dose)
- Final dose in the series between 4 and 6 years of age.

## ***Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)***

- First dose at 2 months of age
- Second dose at 4 months of age
- Third dose at 6 months of age
- Final dose after 12 months of age

## ***Measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles) (MMR)***

- First dose between 12 and 18 months of age
- Second (final) dose between 4 and 6 years of age

## ***Varicella (Chicken pox)***

- One dose anytime after 12 months of age.

## ***Pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumonia) (PVC)***

- First dose at 2 months of age
- Second dose at 4 months of age
- Third dose at 6 months of age
- Final dose at 12 months or older.

## ***Influenza (Flu)***

- Each year, beginning at 6 months of age.

**Hepatitis A**

- This is recommended for children and adolescents in selected states and regions and for certain high-risk groups. (Speak with your child's health care provider about this).
- The 2 dose series should be administered at least 6 months apart.