

# Vaccination Schedule

Age of Child	Dose	Type of Immunization
2 months 4 months 6 months	First (1st) Second (2nd) Third (3rd)	DPT/HepB/Hib, Polio, Pneumococcal DPT/HepB/Hib, Polio, Pneumococcal DPT/HepB/Hib, Polio, Pneumococcal
12 months	First (1st)	Yellow Fever, Measles/Mumps/Rubella
18 months	Booster (4th)	DPT, Polio, Pneumococcal
2 years	Booster (2nd)	Measles/Mumps/Rubella
4-5 years	Booster (5th)	DPT, Polio

## Frequently asked questions

**Q: When should my child begin immunization?**

**A:** Your child should begin immunization at 2 months of age.

**Q: Where can my child get immunized?**

**A:** Your child can be immunized at any of your local health centres.

**Q: Is immunization safe?**

**A:** Yes, immunization is safe; however, like all medicine they are not 100% risk free. Vaccines may cause mild reactions like sore arms and a slight fever. Serious reactions are very rare. The risks can be discussed with your health care provider.

**Q: Are infants completely immune to diseases?**

**A:** No, newborns often have immunity to some diseases because they have antibodies from their mothers. However, maternal antibody immunity is only temporary and may not occur if the mother does not have immunity herself.

**Q: Will my child contract a disease if I choose not to have him/her immunized?**

**A:** If your child is not exposed to any disease, he/she will not get sick. If your under-immunized child is exposed to any of the diseases listed over leaf, there is a good chance he/she will get sick. What happens depends on your child and the disease.

**Q: Can multiple immunizations overwhelm an infant's immune system?**

**A:** No, an infant's immune system is capable of handling multiple vaccinations at once. For example, the first 3 doses of vaccine given to a child consist of 7 vaccines. (See Immunization Schedule above).

**Q: How often should I have my child immunized?**

**A:** Your child should be immunized according to the schedule shown above.

# PAHO



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For further information call the Expanded Programme on Immunization Unit at the Ministry of Health at (868)-217-4664 Ext. 12301 - 12304 or email at [epi@health.gov.tt](mailto:epi@health.gov.tt)

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Health

Expanded Programme on Immunization

What Parents need  
to know about  
Immunization





## What is Immunization?

Immunization is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.

## What can parents do?

Immunizations are the most important thing parents can do to protect their children from harmful diseases. A few ways to help ensure the health of your child are to:

- Make sure your child receives regular (well-baby) check-ups. (Well-baby) check-ups coincide with the recommended immunization schedule and is a great time to discuss any questions regarding recommended immunizations for your child with your health care provider.
- Schedule a 12-month well-baby check-up prior to your child's first birthday.
- Schedule your child's 5-year (well-child) check-up prior to kindergarten registration.

## What is my child at risk for?

**Pneumococcus:** A bacteria spread through coughing, sneezing, or contact with respiratory secretions. It can cause fever, shortness of breath, headache and meningitis.

**Haemophilus influenzae type b:** A severe bacterial infection occurring in infants and children under 5 years of age. It can cause meningitis, pneumonia, epiglottitis, skin infections, and arthritis.

**Pertussis (whooping cough):** This disease is spread through coughing and sneezing. It causes coughing spells which can make it hard to eat, drink, or even breathe.

**Hepatitis B:** Spread through bodily fluid. It can cause jaundice, liver cancer, liver failure and death. An infant can contract Hepatitis B during birth if the mother is infected.

**Tetanus (lockjaw):** An infection caused by bacteria that can enter the body through deep cuts or wounds. It can cause severe muscle spasms and nervous system disorders.



**Varicella (chickenpox):** Spread through coughing and sneezing, or direct contact with skin lesions. It can cause blister-like lesions, which can cover the body, cause fever and can lead to a bacterial infection of the skin, swelling of the brain, and pneumonia.

**Measles:** Spread through coughing and sneezing. It can cause high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis, seizures and death.

**Mumps:** Spread through direct contact with respiratory secretions, saliva, or contaminated surfaces. It can cause headache, muscle aches, swelling of salivary glands, encephalitis and meningitis.

**Polio:** A highly infectious disease caused by a virus. It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. The virus enters the body through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine. Initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck and pain in the limbs. One in 200 infections lead to irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs).