

What you may not know about childhood vaccines

Are there any side effects to vaccination?

Most vaccine side effects are minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. More serious side effects, although rare, do occur. Talk to your doctor if you have any concerns or questions about the shots your child is receiving.

Is there a way to reduce the number of shots my child must get?

Yes. Combination vaccines are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to protect your child against more diseases with fewer shots. Ask your doctor which combination vaccines may be right for your child.

Can vaccines give my child the disease?

Currently recommended routine childhood vaccines do not cause disease. Vaccines contain very weak or dead disease germs. As a result of the vaccine your body develops antibodies to help fight the real disease germs.

I am not sure if my child has been vaccinated. Is it OK to get an extra dose?

For many vaccines, it is OK for children to get an extra vaccine dose. It is very important to keep your child's protection up to date. If you are not sure, talk with your child's doctor.

My child has a medical condition. Is it safe to vaccinate?

Vaccination can be even more important for children who have a medical condition (like asthma). They may be at increased risk if they do get sick. Talk to your doctor about any medical conditions your child might have.

Don't wait. Vaccinate!