

## You have the power to protect your children. Make sure they are current with their childhood immunizations.

- Childhood vaccines prevent serious diseases. It is important to stay on track with your child's vaccines, as they prepare the body to fight off illness. That means they help before your child is exposed to a serious disease like measles, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chickenpox, or whooping cough.
- All childhood vaccines are tested and monitored extensively to ensure their safety. While vaccines can cause minor side effects such as a low-grade fever or pain at the spot of the shot, these typically last only a day or two. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports: "Severe, long lasting side effects are extremely rare."
- Your child might not be in school right now, but they still need their vaccines. Up-to-date vaccines are often a requirement when registering for school or day care. But even if your child is learning from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is still critical that they stay current on their shots. Falling behind can put them at risk for potentially life-threatening diseases.
- If insurance or cost is a barrier, there are options. Speak with your health care provider about the free, federally funded Vaccines for Children program.
- Skipping vaccines can put others in danger. Falling behind on childhood vaccines puts people besides your child at risk. It can also endanger your family and others in your community, particularly young children who are not fully vaccinated and people with weaker immune systems.