

Vaccination Fascination

Tips on infant immunizations

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April 23-30 is National Infant Immunization Week.
Below are some common questions parents ask.

Why are there so many shots?

Infant vaccination focuses on more than a dozen diseases. They range from earlier vaccines that protect against polio to newer vaccines that protect against chicken pox and meningitis. Also, some vaccinations require multiple doses over a period of time to reach a protective level.



Why are so many of the shots during the first few months?

Vaccination schedules are made so that protection will start as early as possible. Some vaccination doses can start at birth. Others require time for an infant's immune system to mature in order to be effective.

How do I know what vaccines my child should have?

Your provider always has up-to-date schedules that are approved yearly. To see the current infant schedules, check out the Centers for Disease Control website: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm

Are vaccinations safe?

As with any medical treatment, there are risks and benefits. Vaccines as a whole are shown to be safe and have minimal side effects. Make sure to ask your physician about any concerns you may have about specific vaccines.

What kinds of side effects or allergies should I be aware of?

Although rare, there may be some side effects such as fever or redness at the site of the shot, or unknown allergies. When in doubt, contact your provider.

For more information from the Centers for Disease Control check out www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html

Also check out the American Academy of Pediatrics for more information.
www.aap.org/immunization/about/niiw.html

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HealthReach Community Health Centers



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Bingham Area Health & Dental Center – Bingham
Belgrade Regional Health Center – Belgrade
Lovejoy Health Center – Albion
Madison Area Health Center – Madison
Mt. Abram Regional Health Center – Kingfield
Richmond Area Health Center – Richmond
Rangeley Family Medicine – Rangeley
Strong Area Health & Dental Center – Strong
Sheepscot Valley Health Center – Coopers Mills
Western Maine Family Health Center – Livermore Falls