



## Vaccines Are Safe and Important; Keep Your Family Protected

### The Top Ten Reasons to Vaccinate Your Child

Here are the top ten reasons to protect your child by vaccinating them against serious diseases.

1. Parents want to do everything possible to make sure their children are healthy and protected from preventable diseases. Vaccination is the best way to do that
2. Vaccination protects children from serious illness and complications of vaccine-preventable diseases which can include amputation of an arm or leg, paralysis of limbs, hearing loss, convulsions, brain damage, and death
3. Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough, are still a threat. They continue to infect U.S. children, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths every year
4. Though vaccination has led to a dramatic decline in the number of U.S. cases of several infectious diseases, some of these diseases are quite common in other countries and are brought to the U.S. by international travelers. If children are not vaccinated, they could easily get one of these diseases from a traveler or while traveling themselves
5. Outbreaks of preventable diseases occur when many parents decide not to vaccinate their children
6. Vaccination is safe and effective. All vaccines undergo careful review by scientists, doctors, and the federal government to make sure they are safe
7. Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all strongly support protecting children with recommended vaccinations
8. Vaccination protects others you care about, including family members, friends, and grandparents
9. If children aren't vaccinated, they can spread disease to other children who are too young to be vaccinated or to people with weakened immune systems, such as transplant recipients and people with cancer. This could result in long-term complications and even death for these vulnerable people
10. We all have a public health commitment to our communities to protect each other and each other's children by vaccinating our own family members

We've provided the "Minimum Immunization Requirements Entering a Child Care Facility or School in Illinois," chart below to give you an indication of the vaccinations your child may need.

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## Minimum Immunization Requirements Entering a Child Care Facility or School in Illinois, Fall 2021.

VACCINE REQUIREMENT	CHILD CARE FACILITY, PRESCHOOL, EARLY CHILDHOOD, PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS	KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE		MINIMUM INTERVALS ALLOWED BETWEEN DOSES AND OTHER OPTIONS FOR PROOF OF IMMUNITY
		FIRST ENTRY INTO SCHOOL (KINDERGARTEN OR 1ST GRADE)	OTHER GRADES	
<b>DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS, TETANUS</b>	Three doses of DTP or DTaP by 1 year of age. One additional booster done by 2nd birthday.	Four or more doses of DTP/DTaP with the last dose being a booster and received on or after 4th birthday.	Three more doses of DTP/DTaP or Td; with the last dose qualifying as a booster if received on or after the 4th birthday.  Entering 6th grade, for students ≥ age 11, one dose of Tdap**.	Minimum interval between series doses: 4 weeks (28 days)  Between series and booster: 6 months.  No proof of immunity allowed.
<b>POLIO</b>	Two doses by 1 year of age. One additional dose by 2nd birthday.  Three doses for any child 24 months of age or older appropriately spaced.	Starting school year 2017-2018 any child entering Kindergarten shall show proof of a dose series with the last dose on or after the 4th birthday. <b>This is a progressive requirement.</b>	Three or more doses of polio vaccine with the last dose on or after the 4th birthday.  <b>*Note that starting in 2017-2018 a progressive rule change.</b>	Minimum interval between series doses: 4 weeks (28 days)  4th dose at least 6 months after previous dose.  No proof of immunity allowed.
<b>MEASLES</b>	One dose on or after the 1st birthday.	Two doses of measles vaccine, the first dose must have been received on or after the 1st birthday and the second dose no less than 4 weeks (28 days) later.		Proof of prior measles disease shall be verified with date of illness signed by a physician or laboratory evidence of measles immunity. A diagnosis of measles disease made by a physician on or after July 1, 2002 must be confirmed by laboratory evidence.
<b>RUBELLA</b>	One dose on or after the 1st birthday.	Two doses of rubella vaccine, the first dose must have been received on or after the 1st birthday and the second dose no less than 4 weeks (28 days) later.		Laboratory evidence of rubella immunity.
<b>MUMPS</b>	One dose on or after the 1st birthday.	Two doses of mumps vaccine, the first dose must have been received on or after the 1st birthday and the second dose no less than 4 weeks (28 days) later.		Proof of prior mumps disease shall be verified with date of illness signed by a physician or laboratory evidence of mumps immunity.
<b>HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZA TYPE B (Hib)</b>	Proof of immunization that complies with the ACIP recommendation for Hib vaccination. Children 24-59 months of age without series shall show proof of one dose of Hib vaccine at 15 months or older.	Any child five years of age (60 months) or older shall not be required to provide proof of immunization with Hib vaccine.		Refer to ACIP Hib series schedule. No proof of immunity allowed.

### Immunizations for Adults

Immunizations are not just for children. Protection from some childhood vaccines can wear off over time. You may also be at risk for vaccine-preventable disease due to age, job, lifestyle, travel, or health conditions.

Adults need immunizations to help prevent them from getting and spreading serious diseases that could result in poor health, missed work, medical bills, and inability to care for the family.

All adults need the seasonal flu (influenza) vaccine every year. The flu vaccine is critical for people with chronic health conditions, pregnant women, and older adults.

Every adult should get a Tdap vaccine once if they did not receive it as an adolescent to protect against pertussis (whooping cough), and then a Td (tetanus, diphtheria) or Tdap booster shot every ten years. In addition, women should get the Tdap vaccine each time they are pregnant, preferably at 27 through 36 weeks.

The CDC also recommends that adults 50 years and older get the vaccine that prevents shingles and complications from the disease. Adults 19 years and older who have weakened immune systems because of illness or therapy should also get the vaccine, as they have a higher risk of getting shingles and related complications.

Finally, vaccines also help prevent pneumococcal infections – ranging from ear and sinus to pneumonia and bloodstream infections caused by the Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria. There are two kinds of

pneumococcal vaccines available in the United States: Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV13, PCV15, and PCV20) and Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines (PPSV23). For those who have never received any pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, the CDC recommends PCV15 or PCV20 for adults 65 years or older and adults 19 through 64 with certain medical conditions or risk factors. If PCV15 is used, this should be followed by a dose of PPSV23.

If you'd like to learn more about where to go to receive these immunizations, reach out to your Primary Care Physician (PCP). If you do not have a PCP, you may call the Customer Service number on your BCBSIL member ID card or log on to [Blue Access for Members<sup>SM</sup> \(BAM<sup>SM</sup>\)](https://www.bcbsil.com) [bcbsil.com](https://www.bcbsil.com) and use the Provider Finder. This fast, easy-to-use tool improves members' experience when searching for in-network health care providers.



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