

Hepatitis B Virus

- Infants born to HBV-infected mothers have up to an 85 percent chance of getting the infection.
- HBV infection is spread within families and communities.
- Infection at birth or during early childhood can result in long-term chronic illness.
- Chronically infected persons can develop chronic liver disease and a rare form of cancer.
- HBV vaccine prevents this disease.



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Sources: US Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Childhood Diseases You Can Prevent

All their shots while they're tots!

Immunizations

Immunizing children protects them from diseases that can kill or permanently disable (physically or mentally). Every year, 3.2 million children worldwide survive because they have been immunized. Another 2 million die because they were not immunized. Giving more than one vaccine at the same time will not increase reactions to the immunizations.

Diphtheria

- Easily spread through coughing or sneezing
- Early symptoms are a sore throat, slight fever, and chills.
- Can interfere with swallowing and cause suffocation.
- Can cause heart failure or paralysis if allowed to go untreated.
- Can be prevented with the DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine.

Tetanus (Lockjaw)

- Enters the body through a wound.
- Produces a poison, which attacks the body's nervous system.
- Symptoms are headache, irritability, and stiffness in the jaw and neck.
- Eventually causes muscle spasms in the jaw, neck, arms, legs, and abdomen.
- May require intensive hospital care.
- In the US, three of every 10 people who get tetanus die from it.
- It is preventable through the use of DTP vaccine.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

- Highly contagious.
- Causes severe spells of coughing, which can interfere with eating, drinking, and breathing.
- Complications may include pneumonia, convulsions, or encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).
- In the US, about 65 percent of reported cases occur in children under age five.
- In recent years, an average of 3,500 cases have been reported in the US.
- It is preventable through the use of DTP vaccine.

Polio

- Serious cases cause paralysis or death.
- Mild cases cause fever, sore throat, nausea, headaches, and stomachaches. Pain and stiffness in the neck, back, and legs also occur.
- Can be prevented by immunization with IPV (inactivated polio vaccine).

Measles

- Highly contagious.
- Causes a rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes, lasting for one or two weeks.
- Causes ear infections and pneumonia in one of every 20 children who get it.
- Causes encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in one of every 1,000 who get it. This can cause convulsions, deafness, or mental retardation.
- Of every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die.
- A person not immunized with MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine most likely will contract the disease during his or her life.

Mumps

- Causes fever, headache, and inflammation of the salivary glands, resulting in swelling of cheeks or jaw.
- One of every 10 who get mumps may develop meningitis (inflammation of the coverings of the brain and spinal cord). Sometimes causes encephalitis.
- Can result in permanent hearing loss.
- MMR vaccine prevents this disease.

Rubella (German Measles)

- Most serious in pregnant women; with an infection early in pregnancy, there is an 80 percent chance it will cause birth defects in the unborn child.
- Symptoms include mild discomfort, slight fever for 24 hours, and a rash on the face and neck, lasting for two or three days.
- MMR vaccine prevents this disease.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib Disease)

- Strikes one child of every 200 before age five and few after age five.
- More serious in infants under one year of age.
- Causes pneumonia and infections of the blood, joints, bones, soft tissues, throat, and the covering of the heart.
- Causes meningitis in about 12,000 children per year; about one in four suffers permanent brain damage, and about one in 20 dies.
- Hib vaccine prevents this disease.