

Flu (Influenza) Vaccine

Babies who are ages 6 months and older should get the seasonal flu vaccine every year.

Influenza (flu) is very easily spread by coughing, sneezing, and even talking. You can also get the flu by touching something that has the flu virus on it and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. The flu can lead to pneumonia (lung infection) and dehydration (loss of body fluids) and can make you have to go to the hospital. It is especially dangerous for very young children and people with long-term conditions like asthma and diabetes. The first time babies or young children get this vaccine, they may need two doses at two different visits. Check with your child's doctor to see if your 2 year old can get the nasal spray flu vaccine. Children under 2 years old can only get the flu vaccine as a shot.

Vaccines are safe and will help protect your child from many diseases. Serious side effects from these vaccines are very rare.

Please check in with your child's provider to be sure your child has had all recommended vaccines.

Questions?

Visit VaxMaineKids.org to learn more.



Childhood Immunization Schedule										
Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	9 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	19-23 months	
HepB	HepB									
		RV	RV	RV						
		DTaP	DTaP	DTaP				DTaP		
		HIB	HIB	HIB				HIB		
		PCV	PCV	PCV				PCV		
		IPV	IPV					IPV		
								MMR		
								VAR		
										HepA
										Influenza (yearly)

For information on vaccines your child will receive in coming years, refer to our other brochures on childhood vaccines:

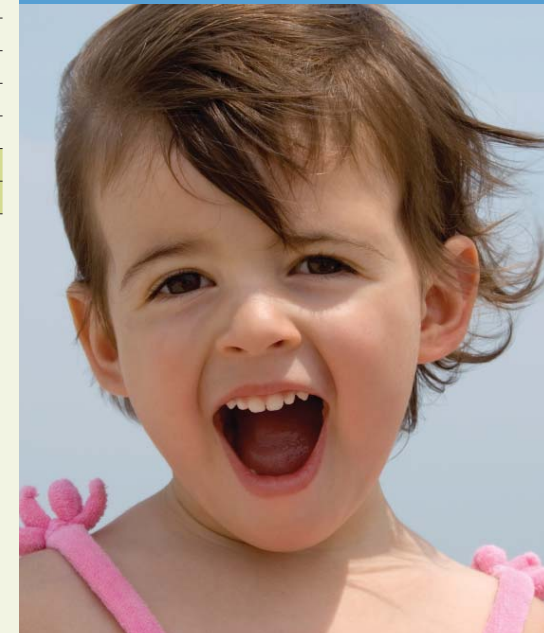
- 4-6 years old
- Preteens and teens

MaineHealth

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Vaccines for Children

Between 12–24 months old



Our goal is to offer your family the best care possible, which includes making sure your child is up to date on all vaccines.

DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) Vaccine

Babies should get this shot at ages 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months old, between 15 and 18 months old, and between 4 and 6 years old.

The DTaP vaccine combines 3 vaccines into 1 shot. DTaP protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

- **Diphtheria** is easily spread by coughing and sneezing. Symptoms can make it hard to swallow and breathe. It is most dangerous for children under 5.
- **Tetanus** is also called lockjaw. It is caused by a germ found in soil, which can enter the body through a cut or scrape. It causes painful muscle stiffness and breathing problems and can make you unable to move parts of your body (paralysis).
- **Pertussis** is also called whooping cough. It is easily spread by coughing and sneezing. It causes painful coughing that you can't stop. Whooping cough is most dangerous for young babies. More than half of babies under 1 who get the disease need to go to the hospital.

Polio (IPV) Vaccine

Babies should get this shot at ages 2 months, 4 months, between 6 and 18 months old and between 4 and 6 years old.

Polio is spread easily in the stool or saliva of a person with the virus. It can make people weak and cause paralysis.

Note: DTaP, IPV, and HepB vaccines can be combined into one shot called Pediarix. DTaP, IPV, and Hib vaccines can be combined into one shot called Pentacel. Ask your child's doctor if either of these shots is an option for your child.

Hepatitis B (HepB) Vaccine

Babies should get this shot at birth, between 1 and 2 months old, and between 6 and 18 months old.

Hepatitis B is a liver disease which can spread through blood or be transmitted from mother to child at birth. It can lead to liver cancer and other severe illnesses. You may not know if your baby is exposed to hepatitis B because many people who are infected do not look or feel sick.

Pneumococcal Vaccine (PCV)

Babies should get this shot at ages 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months old, and between 12 and 15 months old.

Pneumococcal disease spreads by coughing and sneezing, but children can carry the bacteria in their nose and throat and spread it without being sick.

There are many types of pneumococcal disease. The most serious are pneumonia (lung infection), meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), and sepsis (blood infection).

The most common of these is pneumonia, which causes fever and chills, coughing, difficulty breathing, and chest pain. Children under 2 are most at risk.

MMR Vaccine

Babies should get this shot between 12 and 15 months old and between 4 and 6 years old.

The MMR vaccine combines 3 vaccines into 1 shot. MMR protects against measles, mumps, and rubella.

- **Measles** is easily spread by coughing and sneezing and being in the same room with an infected person,

even after that person has left. Measles causes high fever, a rash, and coughing.

- **Mumps** is spread easily by coughing and sneezing. Mumps causes fever, head and muscle aches, tiredness, and swollen glands. It can cause serious health problems, such as deafness and meningitis (infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord).
- **Rubella** is spread by coughing and sneezing. It is usually a mild disease that includes a fever and rash. It is most dangerous for unborn babies, so pregnant women should talk to their doctor about prevention.

Chickenpox (Varicella) Vaccine

Babies should get this shot between 12 and 15 months old and between 4 and 6 years old.

The varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox. Chickenpox causes a rash of itchy blisters, which can cover the body and inside of the mouth. It spreads easily by coughing, sneezing, and touching the rash.

Chickenpox can also cause fever, tiredness,



and headaches. Sometimes it leads to bacterial infections of the skin, lung infections, dehydration (loss of body fluids), and brain swelling.

Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B) Vaccine

Babies should get this shot at ages 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months old and between 12 and 15 months old.

Haemophilus influenzae type B disease is spread by coughing or sneezing. Children under 5 are most at risk. The most common type of Hib disease is meningitis, which can damage the covering of the brain and spinal cord. Even with medical care, 1 out of 20 children with Hib meningitis die.

Hepatitis A Vaccine

Babies should get this shot at 12 months old and again 6 to 18 months later.

Hepatitis A is spread easily in the stool of someone with the virus. If your family eats raw fruits and veggies or prepared foods, goes out to eat at restaurants, or plays with children in diapers, you could be at risk to get hepatitis A.

Hepatitis A causes serious harm to the liver. People may not always look or feel sick, but can pass the disease to others. Most people who get sick with hepatitis A feel very sick for 2 months, but some are ill much longer.