



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](http://VaxMaineKids.org) to learn more.

Childhood Immunization Schedule
4-6 years
DTaP
IPV
MMR
VAR
Influenza (yearly)

For information on vaccines your child will receive in coming years refer to our brochure: Vaccines for Preteens and Teens.

**MaineHealth**  
WWW.MAINEHEALTH.ORG

# Vaccines for Children

## Between 4 – 6 years 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 and IPV vaccines can be combined into one shot called Kinrix for children aged 4 to 6. Ask your child's doctor if this shot is an option for your child.

## 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.

## Flu (Influenza) Vaccine

**Children 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. Check with your child's doctor to see if your child can get the nasal spray flu vaccine.