IMMUNIZATION

ARE YOUR KIDS READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL? CHECK THEIR VACCINATION RECORDS!

August is National Immunization Month, a time to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. With school quickly approaching, it's time to check immunization records to see if your kids are up to date.

Vaccines protect us from dangerous preventable diseases like Chickenpox, Flu, Hepatitis, Measles, Mumps, Meningococcal Meningitis, Pneumonia, Shingles, Pertussis (whooping cough), Polio and more. Vaccines not only help protect us and those we love from getting these diseases, they also help prevent spreading diseases to those that are unvaccinated.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines use very small amounts of proteins or polysaccharide extracted from a virus or bacteria and introduced to the body's immune system to help it recognize and learn to fight that disease if exposed to it later.

Who should receive vaccines?

Almost everyone! The exact vaccines vary based on age group, exposure risk factors, and health problems.

Are there people who should be extra careful with vaccinations?

Decision on vaccination should be evaluated with caution in people with weak immune system or autoimmune disorders or in those who had a severe allergic reaction to a previous similar vaccine.

Are there risks from vaccines?

Benefits of receiving vaccines are much greater than any possible risks. In fact, the only risks are side effects, which are almost always mild and transient. Serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction, are very rare and still can be dealt with.
No scientific relationship has been found between autism and vaccines as shown by several studies.

Can children get a vaccine shot even if feeling ill?

Children can usually get vaccinated even if they have a mild illness like a cold, earache, mild fever, or diarrhea. Talk to your doctor before proceeding with the shots.

How important is it to follow the recommended age-based vaccine schedule?

It is crucial to adhere to the exact recommended age for each vaccine dose. Certain infectious diseases are more common or serious in certain age groups. Delaying or spreading out the vaccine doses leaves your child unprotected during the time when they need vaccine protection the most.

What should be done if a vaccine dose was missed or delayed?

In case a vaccine shot was not given on time for some reason, you must discuss a "catch-up schedule" with your doctor.

Why do adolescents need vaccinations?

As protection from childhood vaccines starts to wear off, adolescents need vaccines that will extend protection. Also, they need protection from additional infections that are more common in their age.

CHILDREN

Children's vaccination follows the CDC standard schedule starting at birth.

This includes **Hepatitis**, **Diphtheria**, **Tetanus**, **Whooping cough**, **Pneumonia**, **Polio**, **Measles**, **Mumps**, **Rubella**, **Chickenpox**. **Influenza** (yearly starting at age 6 months)

For more information, click here:
Children's Vaccination Schedule

ADULTS

Influenza (yearly)
Tdap (every 10 years)
HPV (before age 26)
Shingles (age 50)
Pneumonia (after age 65, unless there are risk factors that require earlier vaccination)
Certain vaccinations if not already received in childhood.

For more information, click here:
Adult's Vaccination Schedule

TRAVELERS

Necessary vaccinations for travelers depend on the country of destination. Discuss with your doctor.

Common vaccinations include **Typhoid**, **Yellow fever**, **Rabies**, **Meningitis**, **Polio**, and **Hepatitis**.

For more information, click here:
Traveler's Vaccination Schedule