



Immunization Requirements

Immunizations are an important part of caring for your child and help to prevent serious and life threatening diseases. Requirements vary per state and school district, so it is important to check with your school or daycare regarding specific requirements. Kaleidoscope Kids follow the recommended immunization schedule set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control. Some immunizations are recommended however not required, or in the process of becoming required by various schools/agencies. Below is basic information regarding each vaccine to help parents understand why it is important to protect their children through immunization.

DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis)

There are six doses given at 2,4,6,15-18 months, 4-6 years and a booster dose (TdaP) at 11-12 years of age. A booster dose is then required every 10 years. Diphtheria is spread from person to person via the respiratory route. This causes a thick coating in the back of the throat which can lead to difficulty breathing, paralysis, heart failure and death. Before the vaccine, diphtheria caused over 15,520 deaths in children in one year. Tetanus is a bacterium which lives in the soil and infections are contracted through an open cut or wound. This causes severe muscle spasms, including spasms of the mouth and jaw. Complications include broken bones from muscle spasms, breathing problems, severe heart damage, lung infections, coma and death. Pertussis or whooping cough is highly contagious and spread by coughing or sneezing. Pertussis is on the rise currently; therefore it is very important for teenagers and parents/grandparents of newborns to get vaccinated. Pertussis can lead to severe coughing spells making it difficult to breathe and can result in pneumonia, seizures, or death. Before the vaccine, 150,000-260,000 cases and 9000 deaths were reported each year from pertussis.

Hepatitis A

This is a two dose series given 6 months apart to children beginning at 1 year of age. The hepatitis A virus is found in the stool of an infected person and can be transmitted by eating food or drinking water contaminated with the virus. Hepatitis A can cause jaundice or yellowing of the eyes and skin, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and flu-like symptoms which may result in liver disease. Often people are hospitalized with this illness, and several people die yearly due to hepatitis A infections. The virus is easily transmitted in daycares, cafeterias, and households.

Hepatitis B

This is a three dose series with the first dose given at birth, the second at 1-2 months, and the third dose given at 6-12 months of age. Four doses may be given if combination vaccines are used after the birth dose. Adolescents who did not receive the primary series should receive catch up vaccines. The hepatitis B virus is spread by direct contact with infected blood, body fluids, sexual contact, tattoos, and body piercing. A pregnant woman can also pass the infection to her baby. The hepatitis B virus can affect the liver leading to cirrhosis, liver cancer or death. Symptoms include jaundice, diarrhea, vomiting, weakness and loss of appetite. 25% of children with lifelong hepatitis B infection die of liver disease as adults.

Hib(haemophilus influenzae type b)

There are four doses given at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age. Haemophilus influenza is a bacterium spread from person to person. Complications of this disease include meningitis, blindness, brain damage, paralysis, hearing loss, and death. Before the vaccine, Hib meningitis killed 600 children a year and left many survivors with deafness, seizures, or mental retardation.

HPV/Gardasil (human papilloma virus)

This vaccine is recommended to be given to females at 11-12 years old but may be given as early as 9 years old. Three shots are given within a six month period. There are more than 40 subtypes of human papilloma virus. The HPV vaccine protects against two of the subtypes responsible for 70% of cervical cancer in the United States, and two subtypes responsible for 90% of genital warts. HPV is sexually transmitted and affects more than 50% of sexually active men and women. The major implication of this vaccine is that it protects against strains of the virus responsible for 70% of cervical cancer which is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women.

Influenza

This vaccine is recommended yearly in the fall for all children through 18 years old, healthcare and daycare workers, people with chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, heart or other problems, and those who wish to decrease their risk of catching the flu. For children under 9 years old receiving the vaccine for the first time, two doses are needed one month apart. For those who have received the vaccine before, or who are 9 years or older, only one dose yearly is needed. Before the vaccine, from 1918-1919 there were 550,000 deaths due to influenza in the United States, and 21 million worldwide.

IPV(inactivated polio vaccine)

There are four doses given at 2, 4, 6-18 months and 4-6 years. Polio is caused by a virus which enters through the mouth. This disease can result in paralysis of the body or death by interfering with the ability to breathe. Before the vaccine, 13,000-20,000 cases of paralytic polio were reported each year in the United States. Many children were left on crutches, in braces, in wheelchairs, and on iron lungs.

Menactra(meningococcal vaccine)

This vaccine is recommended to be given at the 11-12 year old well check, or to those entering high school, college, or the military. Meningococcal infection is one of the leading causes of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old. One in ten infected with this bacterium dies despite treatment with antibiotics. Of those who survive, up to 20% lose their arms or legs, suffer from deafness or seizures, or mental deficiencies. The vaccine protects 90% of those vaccinated. People who have had Guillain-Barre Syndrome should speak with their doctor before receiving the vaccine.

MMR(measles, mumps, rubella)

There are two doses in this series given at 12-15 months and 4-6 years. The measles virus is spread by coughing, sneezing, and talking. It causes rash, cold symptoms, and complications include pneumonia, brain damage, seizures, and death. It is estimated if the vaccine were stopped, 2.7 million people worldwide would die. Mumps is also spread via the respiratory route and can cause swollen glands, fever, meningitis, and swelling of the ovaries and testicles leading to sterility of males. Rubella causes a rash, fever, and arthritis. Complications include birth defects such as deafness, blindness, and mental retardation or miscarriage or premature birth.

Prevnar(pneumococcal vaccine)

This vaccine is given at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months. This vaccine protects against Streptococcus pneumonia bacteria which is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children in the United States. This bacterium also causes pneumonia, brain damage, sepsis, ear and sinus infections. It is spread by coughing and sneezing.

Rotateq(rotavirus)

This vaccine is recommended at 2, 4 and 6 months. The first dose must be given by 3 months and the final dose by 8 months. Rotavirus commonly affects infants and children leading to severe diarrhea, dehydration or death. This vaccine is given orally, and decreases the severity of infection if affected.

Varicella(chicken pox)

There are two doses given at 12-15 months and 4-6 years of age. The booster dose at 4 years is fairly recent, so many preteens/teens need the booster as well for protection. The chicken pox virus is spread by coughing, sneezing, or contact with the chickenpox sores. The severity can range from a mild rash and fever to pneumonia, skin infections, and death. If a child gets chicken pox after the vaccine, it is a milder case with fewer complications and fewer missed school days.