



“We as parents can only do so much to protect Jackson’s health. Immunizations help assure a healthy life.”  
—Jackson’s Mom

# Immunizations:

Are one of the greatest achievements of medicine. They have been so successful, many parents have never seen most of the illnesses and complications that vaccines prevent. But these diseases still exist. Your child needs immunizations to be protected from them.

## Immunization Schedule for:

	Birth	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	4-6 years
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	✓ (one RSV dose before 8 months of age)							
Hepatitis B	✓	✓		✓				
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Polio		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Pneumococcal & Hib meningitis		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rotavirus		✓	✓	✓				
Hepatitis A					✓		✓	
Varicella (chickenpox) & Measles, Mumps, Rubella					✓			✓

### 6 months and older

- Updated COVID-19 vaccines
- Flu vaccine every fall\*

### 11-12 years

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis
- Human Papillomavirus (can start at age 9)
- Meningococcal (groups ACWY)

### 16 years

- Meningococcal (groups ACWY)
- Meningococcal (group B)

Persons aged 16–23 years (16–18 years preferred) may get a vaccine series for short-term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease.

\*Children 6 months–8 years who have received fewer than 2 flu vaccine doses should receive 2 doses of flu vaccine.

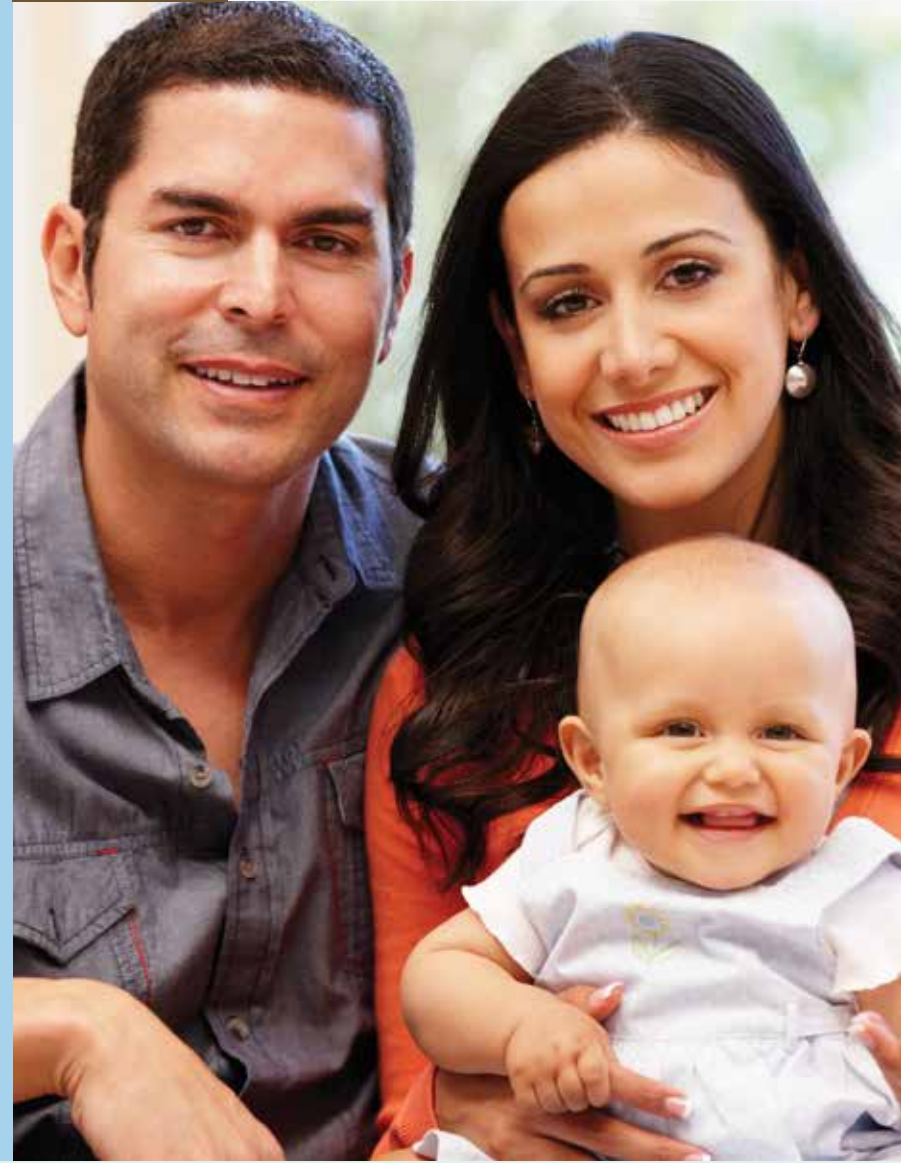


California Department of Public Health,  
Immunization Branch IMM-234 (11/23) ADA

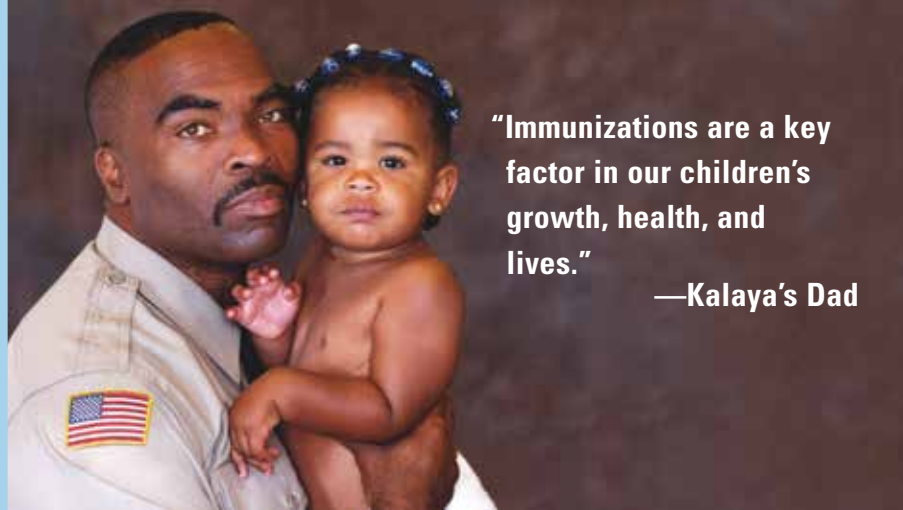
This publication was supported by Grant Number H23/CH922507 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



## Parents



Protect your little one with immunizations.



**“Immunizations are a key factor in our children’s growth, health, and lives.”**  
—Kalaya’s Dad

## Why are immunizations important?

Immunizations can protect your child against serious diseases that can make your child very sick. These diseases can even cause brain damage or death.

Immunizations also protect the community. If children are not immunized, they can be a health threat to babies too young or sick to get all their shots.

Immunizations are also called baby shots, boosters, vaccinations, shots, or vaccines.

## Are they safe?

Vaccines are very safe and effective. They prevent diseases by making the immune system stronger.

Babies are immunized when they are very young, because some diseases that vaccines prevent are much more dangerous for babies or young children.

Sometimes children get mild reactions to the shots, like fever, a sore arm or leg, or swelling where the shot was given. Your doctor or nurse can talk about the risks with you before your children get their shots.

## What you can do:

- 1** Start your baby’s shots on time— at birth.
- 2** Make sure your child stays on schedule (see back).
- 3** Download your child's digital vaccine record at [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](http://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov).
- 4** Comfort your child by:
  - Breastfeeding your baby during and after shots
  - Staying calm yourself
  - Talking in a soothing voice or singing
  - Holding your child
  - Bringing a familiar toy or blanket to use to distract & comfort your child
  - Allowing your child to cry



Your child needs shots at birth, 2, 4, 6, 12, 15 and 18 months of age.

Immunize your child for a lifetime of health.

**“Our hope is that Kaylee, grows up big, healthy and happy.”**  
— Kaylee’s Family



## Need more information?

It is important that health information is based on credible science. Your doctor or clinic will give you Vaccine Information Statements to read.



### For more information contact:

**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
[aap.org](http://aap.org)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Hotline**  
1-800-CDC-INFO  
1-800-232-4636  
[cdc.gov/vaccines](http://cdc.gov/vaccines)  
[vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov)

**The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia**  
[vaccine.chop.edu](http://vaccine.chop.edu)

**California Department of Public Health**  
[GetImmunizedCA.org](http://GetImmunizedCA.org)

**Vaccinate Your Family**  
[vaccinateyourfamily.org](http://vaccinateyourfamily.org)

Ask your doctor.