

PROVIDER HEALTH EDUCATION & RESOURCES

August 2025

August National Immunization Awareness Month

Talking with Parents about Vaccines:

Many parents have questions about their children's vaccines, and answering their questions can help parents feel confident in choosing to immunize their child according to the CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

Yes. Vaccines are very safe.

The United States' long-standing vaccine safety system ensures that vaccines are as safe as possible. Currently, the United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history. Millions of children safely receive vaccines each year. The most common side effects are very mild, such as pain or swelling at the injection site.

What are the risks and benefits of vaccines?

Vaccines can prevent infectious diseases that once killed or harmed many infants, children, and adults. Without vaccines, your child is at risk for getting seriously ill and suffering pain, disability, and even death from diseases like measles and whooping cough. The main risks associated with getting vaccines are side effects, which are almost always mild (redness and swelling at the injection site) and go away within a few days. Serious side effects after vaccination, such as a severe allergic reaction, are very rare and doctors and clinic staff are trained to deal with them. The disease-prevention benefits of getting vaccines are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children. The only exceptions to this are cases in which a child has a serious chronic medical condition like cancer or a disease that weakens the immune system, or has had a severe allergic reaction to a previous vaccine dose.

Is there a link between autism and vaccines?

No. Scientific studies and reviews continue to show no relationship between vaccines and autism.

Educational links:

[Autism and Vaccines | Vaccine Safety | CDC](#)

[Reasons to Vaccinate | Childhood Vaccines | CDC](#)

[About Vaccines for your Children | Childhood Vaccines | CDC](#)

