

# Immunization

**Immunization is a process by which an individual becomes protected from diseases.**

**Where can I go for more information about vaccines and immunizations?**

[Immunize BC](#) is a one-stop-shop for immunization, including disease facts, answers to common questions, the BC childhood schedule, vaccine information, stories and videos. See other websites for additional useful information.

**Why are vaccines important?**

Vaccination was one of the most important achievements in public health in the 20th century. Current Canadian disease levels are 92-100% lower than pre-vaccination era disease levels. However, many children in the Canada, as well as other countries, still die from vaccine-preventable diseases.

# VACCINES: PUBLIC HEALTH SUPERHEROES

IN THE FIGHT TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL INFECTIOUS DISEASE, VACCINES HAVE REDUCED ILLNESS AND SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES



\* Highest number of cases in a single year in the five years preceding vaccine introduction.

\*\* Data for measles and rubella from the Canadian Measles and Rubella Surveillance System (CMRSS). All other data are from the Canadian Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (CNDS). Most recent report of cases in Canada in 2011. 2011 is the most recent validated data available for publication.

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Through immunizations, you have the power to protect your child from dangerous illnesses like measles, tetanus and hepatitis. Being a parent is a bit responsibility, and the best thing you can do for your child's health is to learn the facts about vaccinations so that you can make the best choices.

Many diseases can be devastating. Polio, for example, paralyzed millions of children worldwide before the vaccine was created. Diseases such as polio, hepatitis, whooping cough and measles can still infect children that are not protected. HPV (Human Papillomavirus) can protect your boy or girl from cervical cancer, genital warts and male genital cancers.

Roald Dahl [wrote](#) in 1986 about the death of his seven-year-old daughter, Olivia, from measles in 1962.

## **What do I need to know about Vaccines?**

1. When to vaccinate your child: download, print and use the [BC Provincial Immunization Schedule](#) as a guideline for your child's immunizations. You may also find the [BC Pediatric Society Immunization Schedule](#) useful.
2. That vaccinations are safe. Claims have been made over the years regarding the safety of some routine childhood vaccines suggesting that they are the cause of disorders such as autism. Top researchers from around the world have investigated each of these claims and concluded that vaccines do not cause autism or any other chronic disorders. The American Academy of Pediatrics provides valuable information about [Vaccine Safety](#).
3. In addition to routine immunizations, there are other vaccines available for a charge, depending on the age and health status. Ask your doctor if extra protection is important for your family.
4. Vaccinations are recommended by family physicians and pediatricians.

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## Helpful Resources



Here are some helpful vaccine fact sheets for parents:

- [Why Consider Non-Publicly Funded \(NPF\) Extra Protection Vaccines](#)
- [NPF Extra Protection Vaccines Costs](#)
- [NPF Extra Protection Vaccines - Where To Find](#)
- [Extra Protection: Childhood Vaccines Available for Purchase \(Family Resource\)](#)
- [Meningococcal B Vaccine: What Parents Need to Know](#)
- [HPV Vaccine: What Parents Need to Know](#)
- [Information on Vaccine Booster Doses](#)



The Canadian Paediatric Society also has some excellent resources about here. (Scroll down to the information sharing with parents and caregivers section). Specific information can be found here:

- [General information](#) that covers the basics all of childhood and adolescent immunization, including a routine immunization schedule.
- [MMR vaccine](#): Myths and facts



[Immunize Canada](#) contributed to the control/elimination/eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases in Canada by increasing awareness of the benefits and risks of immunization.

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The American Pediatric Society provides answers to parents' questions about immunizations - all supported by scientific research. See AAP resource [here](#).

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## About Kids Health

[About Kids Health](#) is a Canadian non-profit information source for children's health. Among others it provides detailed info on immunization and vaccine preventable diseases.

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The Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), Immunize Canada and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) have collaborated to develop a [free app](#) for smart phones and other mobile devices that will help Canadians keep track of their vaccinations.

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The safety of vaccines is carefully monitored, starting early in the product development and continuing for as long as the vaccine is being used. [Find out](#) about what is done before and after vaccines are approved for use and what is known about the benefits and safety of specific vaccines.

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Please [click here for the Canadian Immunization Guide \(Health Canada\)](#). The Guide is a comprehensive resource on immunization for health professionals, vaccine program decision-makers and other Canadian stakeholders with an interest in immunization. It has been developed based on recommendations and statements of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT) that advises on travel-related health hazards, including vaccine preventable diseases.

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Health Canada has an [excellent resource](#) for parents which contains a wide variety of resources from recommended vaccines to information for parents concerned about vaccine safety

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meninfo.ca | **Canada**

New Meningococcal Disease [Patient Brochure English](#) 

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# MACLEAN'S

“Asking for an Outbreak of Preventable diseases” [Click Here](#) to read the full article from Maclean’s magazine.

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A Parents Guide to immunization, a downloadable pamphlet for parents. [Click here](#) and search the Popular Resources section.

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[Immunization: An Important Choice You Make for your Child](#). Published on Vancouver Coastal Health site.