

Vaccination and Health

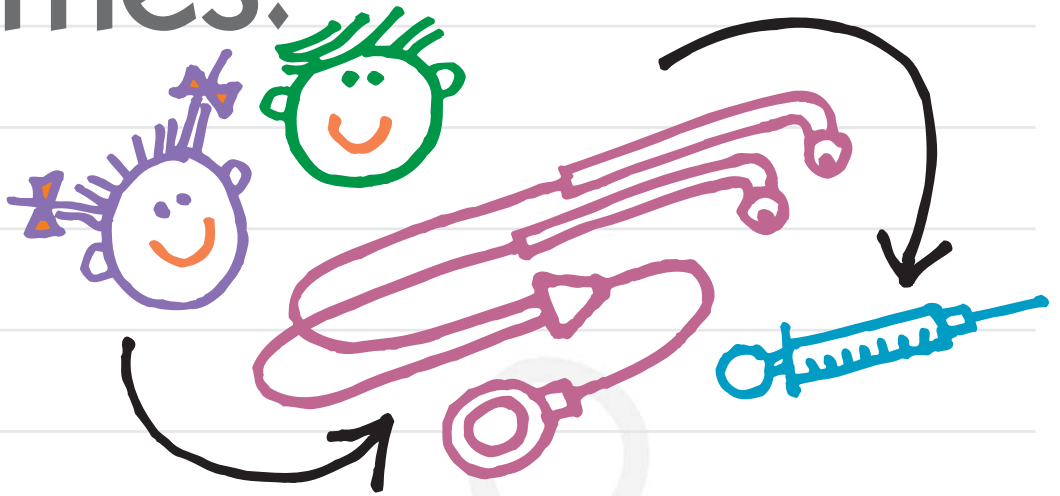


Vaccination and Health

“Of course, winning depends on our kids getting all the right shots at all the right times.”



– Coach Calhoun



Often in sports, the best defense is a good offense. Winning coaches and players identify opportunities to put their team ahead and take advantage of them at just the right moment. It's no different when it comes to vaccinations, which have an immense impact on the health of our children and on our communities and economy. Talk about the right shots at the right times!

Moment of Victory

All children immunized on time to prevent serious infectious diseases.



Team Stats Tell the True Story

Immunization against childhood diseases is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available. Check out these stats:

- Every dollar spent vaccinating children against measles, mumps, and rubella saves \$26.
- Every dollar invested in polio immunization saves \$5.45.
- Every dollar spent vaccinating children with the diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine saves \$27.



Game Situation

Immunizations protect children from serious illness and disabilities, lower medical costs and save lives.

Immunizations protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases that can inhibit children's health and their ability to learn. For this to happen, however, children must get their shots on time. On-time vaccinations prevent disease outbreaks, protect children through their first two years of life and beyond, and minimize the need to repeat doses.

Let's hear it for the home team!

Vaccines have been licensed and available since the 1930s, and data shows they produced drastic reductions in death, disability and illness in children. In the mid-1970s, Connecticut made many vaccines available free. Today, the immunization rate in Connecticut is one of the highest in the nation.

Since 1998, all newborns in Connecticut can be enrolled in a statewide, voluntary computerized immunization tracking system. The Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS) is a FREE statewide, computerized program established and maintained at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The CIRTS registry:

- Keeps a permanent record of each child's shots;
- Provides parents with immunization history for child care, school, camp or college;
- Lets a doctor find a child's history if a family moves or loses the information; and
- Provides parents with immunization information even if they move away from Connecticut or their baby's doctor retires.

TIP FROM THE PROS

Immunization is one of the greatest success stories in public health. When Partnership for Prevention ranked widely recommended and accepted clinical preventive services, childhood immunization ranked at the top with a perfect score based on clinically preventable burden and cost-effectiveness.

Dr. Walter Orenstein, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, Emory University and Former Director of the National Immunization Program and its predecessor, the Division of Immunization, 1988-2004

“Full Court Press” Game Plan

What families can do

Ask yourself the following questions about CIRTS. If you're not sure about the answers, call CIRTS (860) 509-7929 or visit www.ct.gov/dph.

- Is my child enrolled in CIRTS? If your child was born in Connecticut on or after January 1, 1998, he or she was automatically enrolled through birth certificate information.
- How can I obtain my child's immunization history? With proper identification, you can receive a free copy of your child's immunization history at any time. CIRTS information is kept confidential by state law. Only you, your doctor, or health care workers who can assist you get access to it.

- Keep track of your children's immunizations. Your health care provider can give you a free booklet to keep all the information.
- Keep your appointments so your child's immunizations are given at the best time for his or her protection.

On-time
immunizations
open the door
to good
health.

Follow the schedule and we all win.

The following schedule shows all the proper childhood immunizations and ages when they should be given. Please refer to this schedule often and call CIRTS at (860) 509-7929, or visit the website of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at www.cdc.gov/vaccines for more information.

Child's age	Immunizations
Birth	Hep B #1 (hepatitis B)
1-2 months	Hep B #2 - at least 1 month after Hep B #1
2 months	DTaP/DT #1 (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis), IPV #1 (polio), Hib #1 (Haemophilus influenzae type b), PCV #1 (Pneumococcal Conjugate), Rotavirus #1
4 months	DTaP/DT #2, IPV #2, Hib #2, PCV #2 Rotavirus #2
6 months	DTaP/DT #3, Hib #3, PCV #3 Rotavirus #3
6-18 months	Hep B#3, IPV #3
12-15 months	Hib #4, MMR #1 (measles, mumps and rubella), PCV #4 Varicella #1
6-59 months	Influenza (Flu) 2 doses given for those children receiving the vaccine for the first time
15-18 months	DTaP/DT #4
12-23 months	Hepatitis A #1 and #2 separated by six months
Before starting school (4-6 years)	DTaP/DT #5, IPV #4, MMR #2, Varicella #2
11-12 years	Varicella (if your child has not had the chickenpox shot, and has never had chickenpox), Hep B, MMR #2
11-18 years	Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) MCV (Meningococcal Conjugate vaccine)

What schools can do

- Have school nurses check each child's records to be sure each child is completely immunized.
- Invite the school nurse or immunization administrator to parent meetings to explain CIRTS and answer questions about immunizations. Expand this to include information about lead screening, and other health issues.
- Develop a wellness program for all grades including reading books, conversations and posters about the importance of immunizations, hand washing, and exercise.

What policy leaders can do

- Make immunizing all children part of Connecticut's whole health agenda.
- Support mechanisms to fund all recommended immunizations for all children.
- Support vaccine research and dissemination of science-based information concerning immunizations.

Immunizations protect children from preventable diseases.

“Full Court Press” Game Plan for Children’s Total Health care

On-time immunizations open the door for all good health care for children. Continue the game plan for good health for children.

What families and caregivers can do

- Help babies develop brain power. Talk to babies all the time you are with them. This develops vocabulary and is the best step to beginning reading skills. Make time to read to children every day to send the message that reading is important.
- Teach children good eating habits. If parents eat healthy, children will, too.
- Get the right amount of sleep. Children need long periods of sleep.
- Go for regular well-child visits. These visits can prevent problems and help get early intervention services.
- Brush your baby’s teeth with a very soft brush or cloth after each feeding.
- Take children for regular dental visits as early as age one.
- Participate in local efforts to improve the health care system.

What health professionals can do

- Take time in well visits to listen to parents and find out what is going on in a family’s life.
- Provide educational materials on health topics.
- Help parents with care coordination and referrals to specialists.
- Include language development and mental health screens in regular check ups.
- Advocate with families for improved access to quality health care.

What schools can do

- Provide parents with information on health insurance and health services.
- Implement comprehensive health care services within schools, including school-based health and mental health early intervention services, including dental health.
- Partner with the state to better track health outcomes for students.
- Provide programs for teen moms and their babies so they can stay in school.
- Participate in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs for good nutrition.
- Join with community partners to address critical health needs in your town or city.
- Advocate for more in-school physical education programs and after school programs that provide physical activity for children.
- Implement comprehensive health education for all students, including child development.

What policy leaders can do

- Make quality, affordable health care a top legislative priority.
- Convene local constituents to discuss health care issues.
- Advocate for appropriate funding for children's health care.
- Work with local and state stakeholders to develop a strong primary preventive health system.
- Provide incentives for business to provide health insurance to employees.

Read More about Vaccinations and Health

The Connecticut Department of Public Health

DPH operates the Connecticut Immunization Registry and Tracking System (CIRTS), a free program designed to ensure that children receive timely immunizations. For more information, visit the DPH website, at www.ct.gov/dph or call (860) 509-7929.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control

The CDC, an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the federal agency responsible for vaccines and immunization. Visit the Vaccines & Immunization section of its website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. Among the publications that can be downloaded there: "A Parents' Guide to Childhood Immunization."

CDC also maintains a toll-free number for consumers and health professionals who have questions about public health, including questions about vaccine-preventable diseases.

Call (800) CDC-INFO or (800) 232-4636. TTY: (888) 232-6348.

The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in English and Spanish.

The Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

The Center provides complete, up-to-date, and reliable information about vaccines to parents and healthcare professionals.

Visit the Hospital's website at www.chop.edu or call (215) 590-1000.

The center also sells, for a nominal fee, videos for new parents, in English and Spanish.

The Connecticut Commission on Children

Visit the Immunization section of the Commission's website, at www.cga.ct.gov/coc/immunization.htm or call (860) 240-0290 for materials.



Vaccinate!
It's the best
shot your
baby's got.

NOTES

