

Immunizations



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Communicable Disease Division
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Date:

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Immunizations are one of the most important actions that you can take to protect your child from serious diseases.

Are immunizations important? YES! Immunizations protect children and the community against dangerous diseases. Vaccinated children also protect those who cannot be vaccinated because of certain medical conditions or are too young to be vaccinated. Vaccines save lives and protect against serious vaccine-preventable diseases.

Do immunizations work? YES! Most childhood vaccines are 90% to 99% effective in preventing disease and have saved millions of lives for more than 50 years. If a vaccinated child does get the disease, the symptoms are usually less serious than in a child who has not been vaccinated.

Are immunizations safe? YES! Immunizations are very safe. Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. The vaccines are continuously monitored for safety and for rare side effects. Today's recommended vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective for millions of children.

Are immunizations necessary? YES! Your pediatrician believes that your child should receive all recommended childhood vaccines. In the United States, vaccines continue to protect children from many diseases. Unfortunately, in other parts of the world, many vaccine-preventable diseases are still common. Because highly contagious diseases may be a plane ride away, it is important that your children are fully vaccinated.

How do I get more information about immunizations?

For more information about immunizations, contact your health care provider or the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at 253 798-6410 and press "0". For children's immunization sites in Pierce County, visit www.tpchd.org or call 253-798-2987.