

Childhood immunizations have changed in the past few years. This schedule reflects these changes and may be different from what you or your children have received in the past. The immunizations shown on this schedule are those that are given *free of charge*.

Some children may be eligible for additional immunizations due to certain health conditions. Talk to your health care provider or call your local Public Health office for more information.

When should I have my child immunized?

		SCHEDULE						
		Birth	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	18 months	4-6 years
IMMUNIZATIONS	RSV <i>Respiratory syncytial virus monoclonal antibody immunization</i>	✓ ¹						
	Influenza (yearly) <i>Influenza immunization</i>				✓ ²			
	DTaP-IPV-Hib <i>Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b immunization</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	RV (up to 8 months of age) <i>Rotavirus immunization</i>		✓	✓	✓			
	Pneumo Conj. <i>Pneumococcal conjugate immunization</i>		✓	✓		✓		
	Men C Conj. <i>Meningococcal group C conjugate immunization</i>					✓		
	MMRV (for use in children 12 years of age and under) <i>Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella immunization</i>					✓	✓	
	Tdap-IPV <i>Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (whooping cough), and polio immunization</i>							✓

¹RSV immunization is offered to all babies younger than 8 months who are entering, or who were born during, their first RSV season.

²Every flu season for all children 6 months of age and older. Children under 9 years old getting their first flu immunization need 2 doses, given at least 4 weeks apart.

For more information about COVID-19 immunizations and eligibility see: nshealth.ca/coronavirus

Routine immunization is also important for school-aged children and adults. To find out more about immunizations for these age groups, talk to your health care provider or contact your local Public Health office. Immunization schedules for children, youth and adults can be found at novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/Routine-Immunization-Schedules-for-Children-Youth-Adults.pdf

Disclaimer: Each province has its own immunization schedule. The Nova Scotia schedule may vary slightly from the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci.html

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Immunization protects children

Immunization protects children against many diseases, such as:

- Diphtheria
- Whooping cough
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Pneumococcal pneumonia
- COVID-19
- Meningococcal disease
- Chickenpox
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rotavirus
- Respiratory syncytial virus
- Rubella
- Influenza



Immunization protects

Immunizing your children protects them against many serious diseases.

How do immunizations work?

Immunizations help protect us from getting sick. Most immunizations are made from tiny, safe parts of the germs that cause diseases. These germs are weakened or killed, so they can't hurt us. When we get an immunization, our body practices fighting the germs. Later, if we come into contact with the real germs, our body remembers how to fight them right away. This means we are immune, or protected, from getting sick.

How is the RSV immunization different from other immunizations, and how does it work?

The RSV immunization is called a passive immunization. It helps protect babies from getting sick with RSV. Unlike regular immunizations, which teach the body how to make its own protection, this immunization gives the body ready-made protection right away.

The RSV immunization contains special proteins called monoclonal antibodies that are made in a lab. These antibodies act like the ones our bodies make to fight germs. They find the RSV germ, attach to it, and block or destroy it before it can cause illness.

This protection starts working right away but doesn't last as long as the protection from regular immunizations.

At what ages should I have my child immunized?

The routine schedule for immunizations is shown in the chart on the back page of this booklet.

Are immunizations safe for my child?

Yes, they are very safe. Most children have no serious reaction. Some children get a sore arm or leg. Some children may also get a slight fever. The risk of getting very sick from a disease that an immunization protects against is much higher than the risk of having a serious reaction to the immunization.

Why should I have my child immunized? Haven't most of these diseases gone away?

We don't see many of these diseases in Nova Scotia, but they haven't completely disappeared. Because most people are immunized, these diseases don't spread very often in Canada. However, they are still common throughout the world, and people can bring them here when they travel. The germs that cause these diseases are still around, so it's important to keep your child immunized to stay protected.

Can immunizations weaken my child's immune system?

No, immunizations do not weaken your child's immune system. They actually help make it stronger! Germs are tiny living things that can be found almost everywhere—on hands, toys, doorknobs, and even in the air. Immunizations teach the body how to fight off certain germs without making your child sick. This way, if your child comes in contact with those germs in the future, their body knows how to protect them right away.



Can children taking antibiotics still be immunized?

Yes, as long as they have no fever. There are very few reasons for delaying immunization. Talk to your health care provider or Public Health Nurse if you wonder if your child is well enough.

If my child is in good health and eats healthy food, will this protect them from the diseases listed on the front cover?

No. Healthy children can better fight off germs, but they can still catch diseases. They can still suffer complications from these diseases. Healthy eating—including breastfeeding—helps keep your child healthy, but it does not replace the need for immunization.

I have more questions. Where can I find more information?

Call your health care provider or a Public Health office near you.

Scan this code to see a map and list of all Nova Scotia Public Health offices.

For a list of Nova Scotia Public Health offices, go to:

<https://www.nshealth.ca/public-health#sites-sites>

For more information about immunization in Nova Scotia, visit the DHW Immunization page at novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/immunization.asp

For more information on immunization visit the websites of Immunize Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Canadian Paediatric Society:

- immunize.ca
- health.canada.ca/index-phac-aspc.php
- cps.ca

Nova Scotians may access immunization records for themselves or their children through VaxRecordNS via the following link:

<https://vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca/>

