



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Immunization Outreach

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines play a very important role in protecting children from bacteria and viruses that cause life threatening diseases. Children's immune systems are not fully developed to fight off bacteria and viruses alone. Immunizations have reduced most of these diseases to very low levels in the United States. However, some of these diseases are still common in other parts of the world. Travelers can bring these diseases into this country. Without immunizations, these infections could quickly spread here especially in places like schools. Immunizations also help people who cannot be vaccinated or who do not respond to vaccines if those around them are vaccinated.

- Well-child visit: Many parents know to schedule an appointment to see a healthcare provider when their child is sick. But seeing a healthcare provider every year for a well-child visit is just as important for healthy children. Completing a well-child visit is another great option for updating your child's immunizations and includes many other screening and assessments important for their growth and development.

What vaccines will be available at the Immunization Outreach?

We will have a number of vaccines available at the outreach. Your child may need and avail of one or more of the following vaccines.

Chickenpox (varicella) vaccine:

- Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox, which can be serious and even life-threatening, especially in babies, adults, and people with weakened immune systems. Symptoms include tiredness, a fever, and an itchy rash of blisters.

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine:

- Diphtheria is a serious infection that causes a thick covering in the back of the nose or throat. It can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and even death.
- Tetanus is a potentially deadly infection that causes painful muscle stiffness and lockjaw.
- Whooping cough, or pertussis, is a highly contagious disease known for uncontrollable, violent coughing that often makes it hard to breathe. It can be deadly for babies.

Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine:

The MMR vaccine protects against three serious diseases Measles, mumps, rubella.

- The measles virus can cause a fever that can get very high, a distinctive rash, cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Sometimes, it can also cause diarrhea and ear infection. It can also lead to pneumonia (infection in the lungs), brain damage, deafness, and death.
- Mumps typically starts with a fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite. Then, most people's salivary glands swell, which causes puffy cheeks and a swollen jaw. Mumps is pretty mild in most people but can sometimes cause lasting problems, such as deafness, meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord), and swelling of the brain, testicles, ovaries, or breasts.

- Rubella may cause a rash or fever, but many people have no symptoms. Rubella can cause miscarriage or serious birth defects in a developing baby if a woman is infected while she is pregnant. Infected children can spread rubella to pregnant women

Polio (IPV) vaccine:

- IPV vaccine protects against polio, a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that can invade the brain and spinal cord. Polio can cause lifelong paralysis and even death.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine:

- While most HPV infections go away on their own, the HPV vaccine protects against infections that don't go away and can cause certain cancers in men and women.

Meningococcal conjugate (MCV) vaccine:

- Meningococcal conjugate vaccine protects against some types of meningococcal bacteria, which can cause serious and even deadly infections, including meningitis (infection of the covering around the brain and spinal cord) and bloodstream infections.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine:

- Tdap vaccine is a booster vaccine that protects older children and adults from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

What kind of side effects should I know about?

Any medicine can cause reactions in some people. The most common side effects from vaccines are a low-grade fever, or pain and redness at the injection site. Mild reactions go away within a few days on their own. Severe, long lasting side effects are extremely rare. If you are worried at all about how your child looks or feels, call your doctor.

When a child gets a fever from a vaccine it is called an Immune Response. This means the body is recognizing the foreign vaccine that has been administered and will then remember and fight it off when it encounters that virus.

Are vaccines safe?

Yes. Vaccines are tested to ensure that they are safe and effective for children to receive at the recommended ages.

Our nurses also take extra precaution to ensure patient safety by following the 5 Rights of Medication Administration:

1. Right patient
2. Right vaccine
3. Right dose
4. Right time for the vaccine
5. Right route to administer the vaccine

For more information about which vaccine your child needs from birth to 18 years old please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/schedules/index.html>

The CHCC Immunization Program is located next to the CHCC Dental Clinic on the main Navy Hill campus. The Immunization Program can be contacted at (670) 236-8745, and is open 7:30AM-4:30PM Monday-Friday.