



TODAY CHILDREN RECEIVE VACCINES TO PROTECT AGAINST

14 DIFFERENT DISEASES

with as many as **27 vaccine doses** by the time

they are **2 years old**. Many parents understandably have concerns about too many vaccines overwhelming their child's immune system. However, spacing out, separating or withholding vaccinations can leave your child **unprotected** against these diseases.

Continue reading to learn more about vaccinating your child.



To learn more about vaccinations visit the CDC's website [cdc.gov/vaccines/](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/),* or the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services website [michigan.gov/immunize](https://www.michigan.gov/immunize)* or speak with your child's healthcare provider.



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Why Immunize?

LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT VACCINATING YOUR CHILD

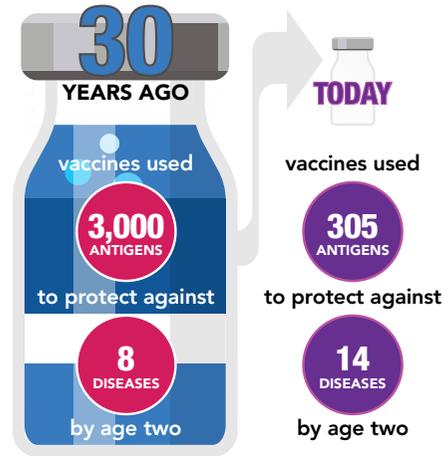
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Do children today encounter more components from vaccines than they did 30 years ago?

No. Thanks to scientific advances, today's vaccines can protect children from more diseases using fewer antigens.

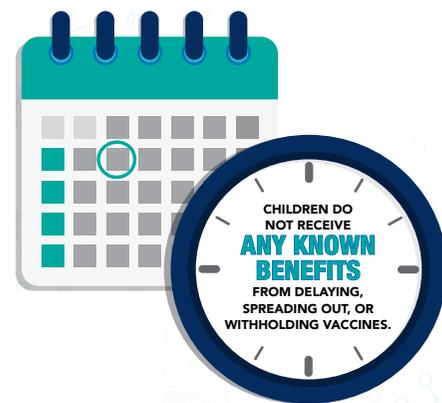
Can too many vaccines overwhelm a child's immune system?

No. Your child is exposed to thousands of germs every day in their environment. In fact, a common cold or sore throat will put a greater burden on your child's immune system than vaccines.



What is the harm in separating, spacing out or withholding vaccines?

Children are given vaccines at a young age because this is when they are at highest risk of getting sick or dying if they get these diseases.



INFANTS ARE COLONIZED WITH **TRILLIONS** OF BACTERIA, AND EACH BACTERIUM CONTAIN **2,000 TO 6,000** IMMUNOLOGICAL COMPONENTS, AND INFECTED WITH NUMEROUS VIRUSES.

I'm concerned about the ingredients in vaccines. Are they safe and necessary for my child?

All of the ingredients in vaccine play a necessary roles in either making the vaccine, triggering the body to develop immunity, or in ensuring the final product is safe and effective. Some common ingredients include:

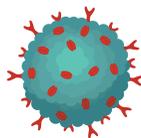
- **Adjuvants** help boost the body's response to vaccine. (Also found in antacids, buffered aspirin, antiperspirants, etc.)
- **Stabilizers** help keep vaccine effective after manufactured (resides in body naturally.)
- **Formaldehyde** is used to prevent contamination by bacteria during the vaccine manufacturing process. Resides in body naturally (more in body than vaccines). Also found in environment, preservatives, and household products).
- **Thimerosal** is used during the manufacturing process but is no longer an ingredient in any vaccine except multidose vials of the flu vaccine. Single dose flu vaccines are available as an alternative. No reputable scientific studies have found an association between thimerosal in vaccines and autism.



SEEK INFORMATION ON VACCINE INGREDIENTS FROM CREDIBLE SOURCES AND ADDRESS YOUR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS WITH YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST.

Are vaccines still necessary?

Although several of the diseases that vaccines prevent have been dramatically reduced or eliminated, vaccines are still necessary. It is always better to prevent a disease than to treat it after it occurs.



THE UNITED STATES HAD MORE THAN **1,200** CASES OF **MEASLES** IN **2019**. THIS WAS THE GREATEST NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED IN THE U.S. SINCE 1992 AND SINCE MEASLES WAS DECLARED ELIMINATED IN 2000.

Does my child still need to get vaccines if I am breastfeeding?

Yes. The types of immunity from breastfeeding and immunization are different. The antibodies made after immunization are from the baby's own immune system and will remain in the form of immunologic memory otherwise known as active immunity. Antibodies from the breastmilk are from the maternal immune system and only provide short-term protection. The immunity generated from breast milk is called passive immunity.

How do I know that vaccines are safe?

The CDC and FDA take many steps to make sure vaccines are very safe. Because vaccines are given to people who are not sick they are held to the highest standards of safety. As a result they are among the safest things we put in our body.

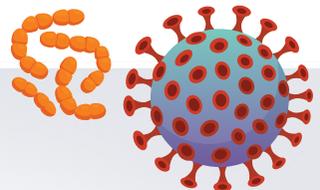
Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects. In most cases side effects are mild, and go away in a few days. Severe, long lasting side effects from vaccines are rare.

At what age will my child be fully vaccinated?

Although most doses of vaccines will be completed by 2 years of age, we all need vaccines throughout our lives to help protect against diseases. Vaccines are recommended for children, teens, and adults based on different factors like age, health conditions, lifestyle, jobs, and travel.



For the most update vaccination schedules visit [cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/),* or speak with your doctor or pharmacist.



IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO VACCINATE YOUR CHILD, **UNDERSTAND THE RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

With the decision to delay or reject vaccines comes an important responsibility that could save your child's life or the life of someone else.

- Anytime your child is ill and you call 911, ride in an ambulance, visit a hospital or emergency room, or visit your child's doctor or any clinic, you **MUST** tell the medical staff that your child has not received all the recommended vaccinations for their age.

Be aware **ANY** vaccine-preventable disease can strike at **ANY** time in the U.S. because all of these diseases still circulate either in the U.S. or elsewhere in the world.