

Immunization information



Three reasons why to vaccinate:

To prevent serious infections. There continue to be many sicknesses that are still common in this country such as: measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), polio, diphtheria, or tetanus. Since we haven't seen these serious infections in our families and in our communities, it is hard to understand why we still need to be protected. For example, choosing not to get a chickenpox vaccine is a choice to risk serious and sometimes fatal infection from getting chickenpox later in life.

To prevent infections that could easily come back. There are some sicknesses in our country that continue to be present like measles, mumps, rubella, and Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). They are

present in very small numbers. If our body's protection is not good in our families, our schools and our communities, we are all more prone to catch on of more of these sicknesses. These can cause many people to be hospitalized and is even fatal to others. In the early 1990's this tragedy is exactly what happened.

To prevent infections that are common in other parts of the world.

There are some sicknesses like polio that don't exist in our country or our communities anymore. Another like diphtheria still happens, but is very rare. However, these sicknesses are very common in other parts of the world. Children in India are paralyzed by polio and not able to walk. In Russia diphtheria is fatal. Because there is such fast and easy travel between other countries and ours, these sicknesses are only a plane or a boat ride away from our communities. We need to protect each other, our children, and our communities by getting our shots; by staying strong!

Can children who are sick still get their vaccines?

You or your family member may be concerned that children with a cold, ear infection, low fever, even diarrhea are not able to get their scheduled shots. This is not a worry. You can still give children their shots with those illnesses. It will not make them sicker. The body's defenses (antibodies) to fight infection are not affected by a cold, ear infection, low fever, or even diarrhea.

Addition information Web Sites:

Indian Health Services
www.ihs.gov
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov
Immunization Action Coalition
www.immunize.org
Institute for Vaccine Safety
www.vaccinesafety.edu
Parents of kids with infectious Diseases
www.pikids.org

**Any questions please
call the Brigham Office
435-734-2286**