

# Vaccinations

March 20, 2025

Immunizations, also known as vaccinations, are important for people of all ages. They help your immune system recognize and quickly kill bacteria and viruses that can cause serious illness or death. By getting immunized, you not only protect yourself and your family, but others as well. Many vaccines are provided free as part of your child's routine immunizations.

## Respiratory illness

Getting vaccinated helps protect yourself, your community and B.C.'s health care system this respiratory illness season. Starting in October, everyone 6 months and older can get an updated influenza (flu) and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. For information on booking your flu and COVID-19 vaccines, visit the BC Government [Respiratory Illness](#) page. For information on respiratory illnesses, visit [Handling respiratory illnesses](#).

## COVID-19 immunization

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit:

- [BCCDC: Getting a Vaccine](#)
- [Government of British Columbia: COVID-19 vaccination](#)

## Influenza (Flu) immunization

To learn more about the flu vaccines, including myths and facts, click on the links below.

- [BCCDC: Influenza](#)
- [Facts about Influenza \(the Flu\) \(HealthLinkBC File #12b\)](#)
- [Inactivated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #12d\)](#)
- [Influenza \(Flu\) Immunization: Myths and Facts \(HealthLinkBC File #12c\)](#)
- [Why Seniors Should Get the Inactivated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #12a\)](#)

## B.C. immunization schedules

The schedules below list vaccines provided free to residents of B.C. The schedules can help you determine when you or your family need to be immunized. Find individual immunization schedules for different age groups and individuals at high risk.

- [Infants and Children](#)
- [School Age Children](#)
- [Adults, Seniors and Individuals at High Risk](#)

## **Routine immunizations**

Childhood immunizations begin at 2 months of age and continue until your child is 4 to 6 years old. Children in grades 6 and 9 also get immunizations as part of the school-based immunization program. Additional immunizations are recommended for adults, seniors and those deemed high risk.

The vaccines listed below are provided free to residents of British Columbia. Please note that certain restrictions apply for some vaccines. For more information about each vaccine, including at what age each vaccine is given and who is eligible to receive the vaccine for free, click on the links below or visit the [B.C. Immunization Schedules](#). You can use the [Child Health Passport](#) to record your child's immunizations.

- [Chickenpox \(Varicella\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #44b\)](#)
- [Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b \(DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #105\)](#)
- [Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae Type b \(DTaP-IPV-Hib\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #15b\)](#)
- [Hepatitis A Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #33\)](#)
- [Hepatitis B Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #25a\)](#)
- [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #101b\)](#)
- [Inactivated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #12d\)](#)
- [Measles, Mumps, Rubella \(MMR\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #14a\)](#)
- [Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella \(MMRV\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #14e\)](#)
- [Meningococcal C Conjugate \(Men-C\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #23a\)](#)
- [Meningococcal Quadrivalent Vaccines \(HealthLinkBC File #23b\)](#)
- [Pneumococcal Conjugate \(PCV 13\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #62a\)](#)
- [Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #62b\)](#)
- [Rotavirus Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #104a\)](#)
- [Tetanus and Diphtheria \(Td\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #18a\)](#)
- [Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis \(Tdap\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #18c\)](#)

## Immunizing your child

To keep your child safe, it is important that they get all their vaccines on time. By getting vaccines on time, your child can be protected from many diseases over their lifetime in particular the following:

Vaccine Name	Diseases Prevented
<b>DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)</b>	Diphtheria, Tetanus (Lockjaw), Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
<b>MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)</b>	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
<b>Polio Vaccine (IPV)</b>	Poliomyelitis (Polio)
<b>Hepatitis B Vaccine</b>	Hepatitis B
<b>Hepatitis A Vaccine</b>	Hepatitis A
<b>HPV Vaccine (Human Papillomavirus)</b>	Certain cancers (Cervical, Anal, Throat), Genital Warts
<b>Influenza Vaccine</b>	Influenza (Flu)
<b>Pneumococcal Vaccine</b>	Pneumonia, Meningitis, Sepsis
<b>Varicella Vaccine</b>	Chickenpox

<b>Vaccine Name</b>	<b>Diseases Prevented</b>
<b>Meningococcal Vaccine</b>	Meningitis (caused by meningococcal bacteria)
<b>Rotavirus Vaccine</b>	Severe Diarrhea (caused by Rotavirus)
<b>COVID-19 Vaccine</b>	COVID-19
<b>Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine</b>	Haemophilus Influenzae Type b infection, Meningitis, Sepsis, Pneumonia, Epiglottitis

Click on the links below to learn how to give your child a better immunization experience, the benefits of vaccinating your child and more.

- [Your Baby's Immune System and Vaccines \(HealthLinkBC File #50a\)](#)
- [The Benefits of Immunizing Your Child \(HealthLinkBC File #50b\)](#)
- [Childhood Vaccines are Safe \(HealthLinkBC File #50c\)](#)
- [Better Immunization Experience for Your Child \(HealthLinkBC File #50e\)](#)
- [Grade 6 Immunizations in B.C. \(HealthLink BC #50f\)](#)
- [Grade 9 Immunizations in B.C. \(HealthLink BC #50g\)](#)
- [Numbing Creams and Patches for Immunizations \(HealthLinkBC File #50h\)](#)

### **Vaccination status reporting**

The B.C. Government approved the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation, effective July 1, 2019. This regulation requires parents or guardians to report school-age children's vaccination status. Public health units began implementing the Regulation in September 2019.

Recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease in B.C. highlight the importance of immunization. The regulation is part of the Government's plan to increase immunization rates in B.C.

## Vaccines recommended for adults in B.C.

For a list of vaccines recommended for adults in BC click on the link below. Please note that certain restrictions apply for some vaccines. To learn more, visit [ImmunizeBC: What vaccines do adults need?](#)

## Travel immunizations

If you travel abroad, you may encounter diseases that are not common in Canada. Depending on what region of the world you are travelling to, you may need one of the vaccines listed below. For more information about travel vaccines, click on the links below or speak to your health care provider.

- [Health Advice for Travellers \(HealthLinkBC File #41a\)](#)
- [Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #41h\)](#)
- [Malaria Prevention \(HealthLinkBC File #41f\)](#)
- [The Pregnant Traveller \(HealthLinkBC File #41g\)](#)
- [Travel Immunizations for Adults \(HealthLinkBC File #41c\)](#)
- [Traveller's Diarrhea \(HealthLinkBC File #41e\)](#)
- [Traveller's Diarrhea and Cholera Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #41k\)](#)
- [Travelling with Children \(HealthLinkBC File #41d\)](#)
- [Typhoid Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #41j\)](#)
- [Yellow Fever Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #41i\)](#)

For a list of travel vaccines that you should consider when travelling to a particular country, visit [Government of Canada: Travel advice and advisories by destination](#). You can search for the country name in the drop-down menu or filter destinations, and then click the Health tab to access recommendations.