

# Vaccines

## For School-Aged Children



Vaccines are crucial in protecting children against serious diseases. In California, before starting school or childcare, every child, whether newly enrolled or a transfer, needs to have their complete vaccination records provided by their parents. By being fully vaccinated, children are not only protecting themselves but also ensuring the health and safety of their classmates and teachers.



These vaccines have been used for decades and are safe in preventing childhood diseases, like measles, mumps and chickenpox, and can help stop the spread of infections at school and at home. They have been thoroughly tested to make sure they provide your child with more protection than if they were not vaccinated at all.

For maximum protection, children should stay up to date on all their vaccines – including the ones that protect them against flu and COVID-19.

### What Vaccines Should My Child Get?

#### For TK/K through 12th grade:

- ◆ **DTaP Vaccine:** Children under 7 years old need multiple doses to protect against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, which is especially dangerous for infants.
- ◆ **Hepatitis B Vaccine:** It's a two or three dose series recommended for everyone to prevent cancer and liver disease caused by the Hepatitis B virus.
- ◆ **Polio Vaccine:** This vaccine is effective in protecting children against this serious disease that can cause lifelong paralysis.
- ◆ **MMR Vaccine:** Take two doses for the most protection against these easily transmittable diseases: measles, mumps and rubella (German measles).
- ◆ **Chickenpox Vaccine:** It's a two-dose series given to children to prevent this highly contagious disease that causes an itchy, blister-like rash.
- ◆ **Flu Vaccine:** You should get this every year, especially in the fall, to reduce the risk of getting the flu.



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- ◆ **COVID-19 Vaccine:** This vaccine is updated from time to time to protect against the latest strains of the virus. Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to receive at least 1 dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- ◆ **Tdap Vaccine:** Older children need one dose to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. It is required for students entering 7th grade.

Check with your school district to confirm which vaccines are required for school. For a full list of vaccines by age along with TK/K-12th grade requirements, visit [shotsforschool.org](https://shotsforschool.org).

**Ask your health care provider how to protect infants and young children from severe respiratory illness from RSV.**

### How Do I Get Vaccinated?

- ◆ Talk to your pediatrician about back-to-school and annual vaccines.
- ◆ If you don't have a health care provider, go to <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vaccines> for a list of free and low-cost vaccination clinics and more information about vaccines.
- ◆ The best part is you can get most vaccines at the same visit! It means less discomfort for your children, and you will spend less time away from your other activities.



### Public Health Call Center

For more information, the Public Health Call Center is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week at **1-833-540-0473**.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

[ph.lacounty.gov/vaccines](https://ph.lacounty.gov/vaccines)

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**