

Don't Wait..... Vaccinate!



Vaccines Protect Everyone in Our Community

Why vaccinate?

Over the years, vaccines have prevented countless cases of disease and saved millions of children and adults. Common diseases, including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, rotavirus and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) are now prevented through vaccination. The smallpox vaccine has insured that one of the most terrible diseases in history currently can only be found in a lab. For more information on how vaccines prevent disease visit the Connecticut State Department of Public Health at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/Public-Information>.

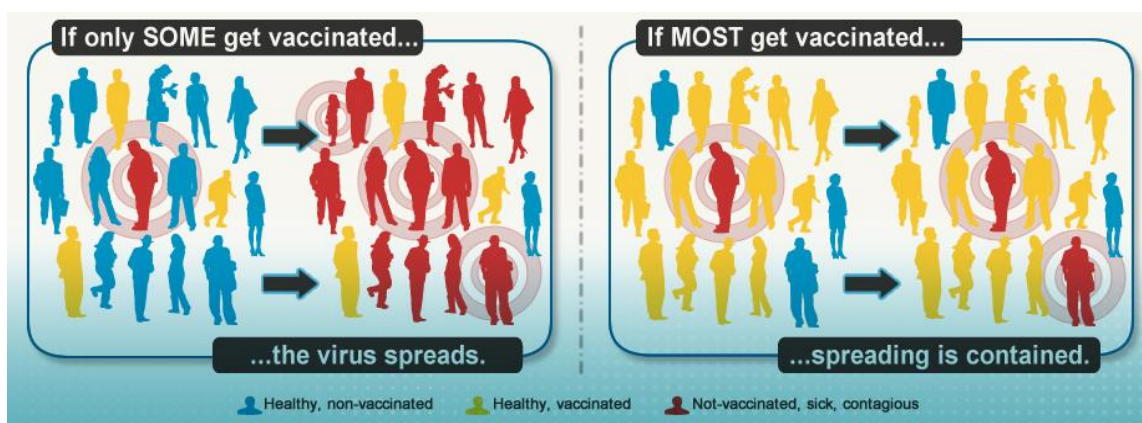
Who do vaccines protect?

Vaccines protect everyone and in particular children. If we vaccinate according to current recommendations, in the future parents may be able to trust that some diseases of today will no longer be around to harm their children.

Vaccines protect others in our community too. Serious vaccine –preventable diseases still happen. Unfortunately, some children are too young to be vaccinated and some people may not be able to receive vaccinations because of allergies, illness, weakened immune systems, cancer treatment or other reasons. To protect these people, it is important that you and your children who are able, get vaccinated. **“This not only protects your family, but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones”** For more information visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/matte/pdf/CDCFiveReasonstoVaccinateYourChild.pdf>

When enough people are vaccinated, the entire community gains protection from the disease. This is called community immunity or herd immunity. It helps to stop the spread of disease and protects the most vulnerable. These vulnerable people need to avoid exposure. The CDC illustrates this in the following:



Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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For vaccine schedule information go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules>

Are Vaccines Safe?

Vaccines are very safe. "Health officials are continuously monitoring information from many sources for any clues that a particular vaccine may cause an adverse health event. The United States has one of the best vaccine safety programs in the world". (CDC).

Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects. Most common side effects are mild, such as redness and swelling where the shot was given, and go away within a few days.

Serious side effects after vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare and doctors and clinic staff are trained to deal with them. Pay extra attention to your child for a few days after vaccination. **If you see something that concerns you, call your child's doctor.** For more information visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/Features/VaccineSafety/>

Should I be worried about measles?

Measles is a very contagious disease and is spread through sneezing and coughing. It has been estimated that since 2000 17.1 million lives, worldwide, have been saved by the measles vaccine. Recent outbreaks of measles in the US and CT are primarily related to unvaccinated individuals.


The MMR vaccine protects people against measles, mumps, and rubella. It is very safe and effective. It is recommended as a two dose series and is about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective. The first recommended dose of the MMR vaccine is at 12 months. Children under the age of 12 months are at risk for contracting measles. More information about measles can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/measles/>

A graphic with a red background. On the left, there is an illustration of a woman with dark hair and a purple shirt holding a young child. The child is holding a yellow duck. To the right of the illustration, the text reads: "You have the power to protect your child." Below this, it says: "Provide your children with **safe** and **long-lasting protection** against measles by making sure they get the **measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine** according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule." At the bottom left is the CDC logo. At the bottom right is the URL "www.cdc.gov/globalhealth".

You have the power to protect your child.

Provide your children with **safe** and **long-lasting protection** against measles by making sure they get the **measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine** according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/globalhealth

Protect yourself, loved ones and your community and immunize everyone in your family.

If you have any questions or concerns contact your healthcare provider.

Information obtained from:

The Center for Disease Control, The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and the US Department of Health and Human Services.