

Immunizations for Children on the Oregon Health Plan

Immunizations protect children from becoming infected with diseases that can cause lifelong disabilities and even death. The Oregon Health Plan covers immunizations.

Children need their immunizations soon after birth.

Babies are *more likely* to develop complications or die from vaccine-preventable diseases than older children.

A recent study* found that babies on the Oregon Health Plan are *less likely* to start their immunizations early if:

- Babies do not have OHP coverage on the day of their birth or within the first month of life.
- Mothers are not on OHP when their baby is born.
- Babies are in foster care, sub-adoptive care, blind, disabled, Native American, African-American or their mother's primary language is Russian.

* Jessica Henderson, Susan Arbor, Steven Broich, Judy Mohr-Peterson and Jean Hutchinson, "Immunization Initiation among Infants in the Oregon Health Plan," *American Journal of Public Health*, in press 2005.

Here's how you can help:

CASE WORKERS: Add newborns to the mother's case as soon as possible so that OHP benefits are available early in baby's life.

OUTREACH WORKERS: Help eligible pregnant women obtain OHP coverage as soon as possible.

MANAGED CARE ENCCs: Focus on timely immunizations for infants with special needs, in foster care, Native American, African-American or babies whose mother's primary language is Russian.

More information about vaccines is available on the Oregon Public Health Web site:



<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/aboutvac.shtml>

QUESTIONS? Call the child's OHP managed care plan or health care provider.



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Vaccines work! The fact we no longer see certain diseases doesn't mean they no longer exist. It simply means the vaccines are at work protecting our children. However, they can only continue to do their work if we continue to immunize children.

Immunizations are given in a regular series. The schedule recommends the shot series start at birth and continue through 24 months of age. Boosters begin at age four. For more scheduling information see <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-schedule.htm>.

Children who start their immunizations on time and stay on schedule are more likely to be up-to-date with their immunizations by the time they are two years old.

If a child falls behind in the immunization schedule, the provider should use the CDC's catch-up immunization schedule to bring the child up-to-date. See <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-catchup.pdf>.



Color copies of this handout are available at http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/healthplan/tools_staff/reftools.shtml

Vaccines protect children against:

Chickenpox	Diphtheria
Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B
Flu	Measles
Meningitis	Mumps
Pneumonia	Polio
Rubella	Tetanus
Whooping cough	

These diseases can spread from child to child

at school . . .

the grocery store . . .

on the playground . . .

at church . . .

ANYWHERE!