



Time to immunize

As a parent, you want to protect your children from harm. Some things you know are dangerous—such as busy streets and sharp instruments.

And you can teach your child how to recognize these dangers.

But there are invisible threats too.

For example, some illnesses can cause serious health problems or even death.

Thanks to vaccinations, however, you can help protect your child from dangers such as these as well.

Shots can help protect your child from diseases such as: ▶ Diphtheria
▶ Pertussis (whooping cough)
▶ Tetanus ▶ Polio ▶ Bacterial meningitis
▶ Measles ▶ Mumps
▶ Hepatitis B ▶ Chickenpox

Many of these diseases are less common than they once were. Vaccines have played an important role in reducing their spread.

But they are not gone entirely, which is why it's important for you to keep your child's shots up-to-date. These diseases still exist and are even

common in many parts of the world.

You can't know when your child may be exposed to these kinds of viruses or bacteria, so vaccination is the best way to keep your child healthy and protected.

Take, for example, chickenpox. Although usually mild, chickenpox can cause brain inflammation or a severe bacterial infection.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 1 in 500 kids who gets chickenpox ends up hospitalized for treatment of these complications.

The chickenpox vaccine has helped reduce cases of chickenpox—and the associated complications.

Time to immunize Kids should receive most of their shots before age 2. Your kids will probably also need more shots before going to school.

Older kids and teens also need certain immunizations to protect them as they grow.

Talk with your pediatrician to find out about the current recommended immunization schedule. And keep an immunization record so you know your child's shots are up-to-date.