

# NEWSLETTER

*Whole School. Whole Community.  
Whole Child.*

#08 | August | 2020

## National Immunization Awareness Month

*Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),  
National Immunization Month is an opportunity to highlight the  
importance of vaccination*



### Why are immunizations important?

People in the United States continue to get diseases that are vaccine preventable. Viral hepatitis, influenza, and tuberculosis (TB) remain among the leading causes of illness and death in the United States and account for substantial spending on the related consequences of infection.

Despite progress, approximately 42,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases.\* Communities with pockets of unvaccinated and undervaccinated populations are at increased risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

In the coming decade, the United States will continue to face new and emerging issues in the area of immunization and infectious diseases. With the outbreak of Covid-19 we have seen what the affects of an unvaccinated population looks like when a highly infectious disease with no-known treatment or immunization is introduced. The CDC and World Health Organization continue to warn of a resurgence of COVID-19 and even an introduction of more "new" viruses in the future.

Infectious diseases are a critical public health, humanitarian, and security concern; coordinated efforts will protect people across the Nation and around the world (World Health Organization, 2020).

## Well-Child Visits

In recent months, families have been doing their part by staying at home as much as possible to help stop the spread of COVID-19. As communities open up, it's important your child goes in for their well-child visit. These well-child visits are essential for many reasons, including:

- Tracking growth and development including milestones, social behaviors, and learning
- Discussing any concerns about your child's health
- Getting scheduled vaccinations to prevent illnesses like measles and whooping cough (pertussis) and 12 other serious diseases

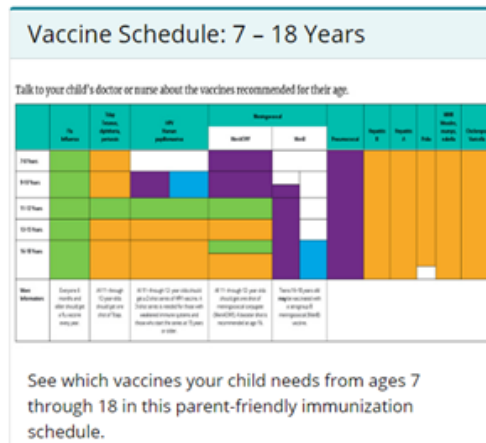
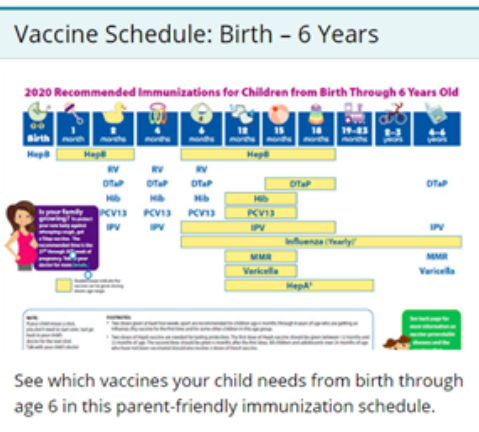
Did you know that there were several outbreaks of measles and whooping cough in recent years? These diseases are extremely contagious and can be very serious, especially for babies and young children. As schools and daycares also begin to reopen, protecting children against these and other diseases makes these vaccinations particularly important.

Not sure what vaccines are needed when? Check out the schedules provided below. Concerned about keeping your child safe? Call your doctor's office to see what special measures they might have in place. Many offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time, like:

- Scheduling sick visits and well-child visits during different times of the day
- Asking patients to remain outside until they are called into the facility to reduce crowding in waiting rooms
- Offering sick visits and well-child visits in different locations

If you need help paying for vaccines, ask your child's doctor or nurse about the Vaccines for Children program. This program provides free vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native.

These are challenging times, but you have the power to help keep your child healthy. Making sure that your child sees their doctor for well-child visits and vaccines is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and community (CDC,2020).



Click on the image to view the 2020 vaccination schedule for anyone under 18!

As always, our [School Health Team](#) is available to provide resources regarding school health topics. Feel free to reach out to us any time with feedback or requests for resources. We are dedicated to improving the health and wellness of your school and community! Contact [Ashley](#), for assistance. We would love to hear from you!

