

# Special Vaccine Considerations for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)

Vaccines protect children and adults from a wide range of potentially life-threatening diseases. Children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) may have unique considerations that should be discussed with your pediatrician when making the best vaccination plan for each child. Please use this information when discussing vaccinations with your pediatrician.

## Important information for all vaccines



### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has **ever had allergic reactions to anything, including any vaccines**. As with any medicine, there is always a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.
- Has **immune system problems, has difficulty fighting off infections, and/or has had or will have a solid organ or bone marrow transplant**. Immune system problems can be caused by a medical condition or by a medicine your child is taking, such as steroids. In addition, live virus vaccines can cause a severe infection for individuals with serious immune system problems. Live virus vaccines include MMR, rotavirus, varicella and intranasal flu.
- Has **any pre-existing conditions**. Some vaccines could worsen certain pre-existing conditions. For other pre-existing conditions, your child might benefit from additional doses of certain vaccines.

### COVID-19

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has had myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the lining outside of the heart)
- Has had multisystem inflammatory syndrome (called MIS-C in children and MIS-A in adults)
- Has a weakened immune system (children with weakened immune systems may be eligible to receive additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine)

### Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has HIV
  - Has had a bone marrow transplant
  - Has sickle cell disease
  - Has had their spleen damaged or removed
- Additional Hib vaccination might be recommended for children with any of the above conditions when they are older.

### Hepatitis A

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has any severe allergies/reaction after previous dose of hepatitis A vaccine

### Hepatitis B

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has a weakened immune system, because immunocompromised children can be revaccinated against hepatitis B when they are adults

### Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has allergies or sensitivity to yeast

### Influenza (Flu)

**Important:** Flu vaccines come in two forms: Inactivated/Recombinant Injections (shots), or Live, Intranasal (nasal spray). Because the intranasal flu vaccine is a live virus vaccine that can cause an infection in people with serious immune system problems, children with immune system problems should receive the inactivated or recombinant flu vaccine shots, not the intranasal flu vaccine.

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has a weakened immune system
- Has severe allergies or has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine
- Has ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (also "GBS")
- Has ever had a seizure

### Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

**Important:** This is a live vaccine which may cause a potentially life-threatening infection in people with serious immune system problems.

#### Tell your healthcare provider if your child:

- Has any severe allergies or had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of MMRV, MMR, or varicella vaccine
- Has a weakened immune system, or has a parent, brother, or sister with a history of hereditary or congenital immune system problems
- Has ever had a condition that makes him or her bruise or bleed easily
- Has a history of seizures, or has a parent, brother, or

sister with a history of seizures

- Is taking or plans to take salicylates (such as aspirin)
- Has recently had a blood transfusion or received other blood products
- Has tuberculosis
- Has gotten any other vaccines in the past 4 weeks

### Meningococcal

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has any severe allergies/reaction after previous dose of meningococcal, tetanus, or diphtheria or CRM-197 containing vaccine

### Pneumococcal Disease

There are two types of pneumococcal vaccines: pneumococcal conjugate and pneumococcal polysaccharide.

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has any severe allergies/reaction after previous dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or pneumococcal polysaccharide, or to any vaccine against diphtheria (such as DTaP)
- Has a weakened immune system or other certain long-term health problems, including cerebrospinal fluid leak, chronic heart disease, particularly cyanotic congenital heart disease and cardiac failure, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, chronic lung disease, including moderate persistent or severe persistent asthma, cochlear implant and/or diabetes mellitus; these children might need additional doses

### Polio

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has any severe allergies/reaction after previous dose of polio vaccine

### Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has chronic lung disease, is severely immunocompromised, has cystic fibrosis, or is

American Indian or Alaska Native, because these children might need a first dose or additional doses

### Rotavirus

**Important:** This is a live vaccine which may cause a potentially life-threatening infection in people with serious immune system problems.

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has a weakened immune system
- Has severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)
- Has had a type of bowel blockage called “intussusception”

### Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has had a coma, decreased level of consciousness, or prolonged seizures within 7 days after a previous dose of any pertussis vaccine (which can be in various combination vaccines)
- Has seizures or another nervous system problem
- Has ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (called “GBS”)
- Has had severe pain or swelling after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus or diphtheria

### Varicella (Chickenpox)

**Important:** This is a live vaccine which may cause a potentially life-threatening infection in people with serious immune system problems.

**Tell your healthcare provider if your child:**

- Has a weakened immune system, or has a parent, brother, or sister with a history of hereditary or congenital immune system problems
- Is taking salicylates (such as aspirin)
- Has recently had a blood transfusion or received other blood products
- Has tuberculosis
- Has gotten any other vaccines in the past 4 weeks

## Resources

*Scan the QR codes or follow the links below to access these resources and learn more.*

*As always discuss any questions or concerns with your pediatrician.*



The CDC provides a detailed list of conditions which may require special consideration for vaccines (contraindications):

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/child-adolescent-appendix.html>



Additional vaccine information is located on the AAP website: <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/immunizations/resources-for-families/>



Information about the vaccine schedule and individual vaccines is available at the CDC's Vaccines for Your Children website:

[https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/paents/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/paents/index.html)



More information on the PA Medical Home Program can be found here:

<https://pamedicalhomeprogram.org/>

## Pennsylvania Chapter

