

# The Importance of Immunization

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**MYTH:** Vaccines are not safe.

**FACT:** Vaccines are extremely safe. They do not cause the illness. They go through years of study and trials before ever being licensed to the public.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/tools/parents-guide/downloads/parents-guide-part3.pdf>

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**MYTH:** The diseases are not a big deal anymore.

**FACT:** The diseases continue to spread in Ohio and the U.S. and some, like whooping cough and measles, are highly contagious and can cause serious injury or death. Your child being immunized also helps protect from diseases spreading to those who cannot receive vaccinations, like people who have a weakened immune system or are undergoing cancer treatments.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/tools/parents-guide/downloads/parents-guide-part3.pdf>

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**MYTH:** Vaccines overload a child's immune system.

**FACT:** Vaccines work WITH the body's immune system to build protection against a disease if they are ever exposed.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/tools/parents-guide/downloads/parents-guide-part3.pdf>

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**MYTH:** My child only needs the important vaccines.

**FACT:** The recommended schedule is carefully planned to protect babies and children early in life, when they are most vulnerable, and before they are exposed to these life-threatening diseases. Delaying or refusing certain vaccines puts children at risk of serious illness or death.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child.html>

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**MYTH:** Vaccines cause autism.

**FACT:** More than 200 well-designed studies have found NO link between vaccines and autism or any specific vaccine and autism.

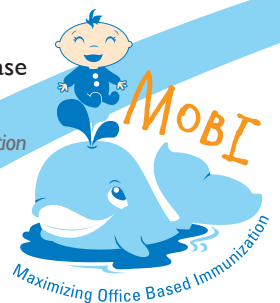
Source: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4028.pdf>

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**MYTH:** Natural infection is better than immunization.

**FACT:** Choosing not to vaccinate puts a child at risk for serious complications from a disease including paralysis, brain damage, liver failure, deafness, blindness and death.

Source: <http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/video/natural-infection-better-vaccination>





# 3 Tips for Talking to Parents

## Be firm in recommending vaccination.

Studies show vaccines are safe and effective. Hundreds of millions of children worldwide have received vaccines. They are credited with getting rid of smallpox from the earth and dramatically reducing other deadly diseases like polio.

## Listen to and be understanding about their concerns.

Every parent wants what is best for their child. Be understanding about any concerns and direct them to speak with their pediatrician or doctor.

## Provide resources and links to trusted organizations for them to get more information.

Many parents want to “do their own research.” It is important to provide them with resources to help them be more comfortable in their decision-making and provide them with access to trusted organizations that provide factual, science-based information on vaccines.

### Trusted Sources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

American Academy of Pediatrics: [www.healthychildren.org/immunizations](http://www.healthychildren.org/immunizations)

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics: [www.ohioaap.org](http://www.ohioaap.org)

Fast VAX Facts Mobile App: [www.ohioaap.org/fvf](http://www.ohioaap.org/fvf)

