



# WHY Risk It?

Delaying the recommended immunizations for your child could expose them to potentially dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases.



## SPREAD THE WORD

"The impact of vaccination on the health of the world's population cannot be overstressed. With the exception of water sanitation, no other modality—not even antibiotics—has had such a major effect on mortality reduction and population growth in children."

*Plotkin SL, Plotkin SA. A Short History of Vaccination. In Vaccines 5th ed (Eds, Plotkin SA, Orenstein WA, Offit PA) Saunders-Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2008, 1-16.*

## Do what is BEST for your child!

The **safety** and **effectiveness of vaccines** are under constant study. Because vaccines are designed to be given routinely during well-child care visits, they must be extraordinarily safe. Safety testing begins as soon as a new vaccine is contemplated, continues until it is approved by the FDA, and is monitored indefinitely after licensure. The **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** works closely with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** to make recommendations for vaccine use.

### **A delayed or changed schedule could be dangerous.**

Alternative vaccine schedules are not a good idea. The current vaccination schedule is designed to protect infants against serious diseases as early as possible. Delaying or splitting up vaccinations leaves children, and the general public, unnecessarily vulnerable to serious diseases. (Source: TexasChildrens.org)

Studies show a delayed schedule increases the risk the child will never get fully vaccinated, and therefore will not be fully protected against potentially dangerous diseases.

## GET THE FACTS



**RESEARCH HAS PROVEN TIME AND AGAIN THAT IT IS SAFE FOR CHILDREN TO RECEIVE MULTIPLE VACCINES AT ONE TIME.**

While it's understandable that parents might be concerned about how many vaccines are given at one time in the child and adolescent vaccine schedule, there is NO research that shows opting for a delayed or slower schedule is safe. In fact, not protecting your child from vaccine-preventable diseases puts them at risk to contract these potentially dangerous illnesses.

Following the recommended schedule of vaccines is the safest option for your child.



**IMMUNIZATION IS BETTER THAN NATURAL INFECTION.**

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. Vaccination provides better immunity than natural infection.

## VACCINES ARE SAFE

The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is confident in the safety of vaccines because of our deep understanding of the complex systems in place to license safe vaccines and continually monitor their safety after being licensed. As vaccines are given to otherwise healthy people, they are held to the highest safety standards, requiring **more rigorous testing than most medications**. It can take 15 or more years and an average of \$1 billion dollars to thoroughly test a new vaccine before it is licensed by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and made available to the public.

As with any medication, side effects can occur after vaccination. However, these side effects are usually minor and most often include soreness or redness at the site where the shot was given, and a low fever (which is actually a positive sign that the body is doing its job by reacting to the vaccine). Severe reactions to vaccines are very rare. Information on possible side effects after vaccination can be found on each vaccine's Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), which is provided by your pediatrician.

## CONTINUE LEARNING

For more information about the benefits, safety and effectiveness of vaccines, visit:

**[ohioaap.org](http://ohioaap.org)**

**[cdc.gov/vaccines](http://cdc.gov/vaccines)**

**[healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)**

**[vaccinateyourfamily.org](http://vaccinateyourfamily.org)**

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