

2009 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) / Vaccination Week of the Americas (VWA)

Talking points

Key message:

Be sure your child receives the recommended vaccines on time. Keep up to date: use the *Recommended Immunization Schedule*.

Call to action:

1. Talk to your doctor. Be sure your child receives the recommended vaccines on time, every time.
2. Remember: Every Vaccine Counts.
3. Call the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) at 1-800-252-9152 for a free copy of the *Recommended Immunization Schedule*. Get it, post it, follow it.

Reason for emphasis on the timeliness in receiving vaccines.

About 20 percent of Texas children are missing at least one dose of the vaccines that are recommended. The National Immunization Survey is taken by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey measures the levels of vaccinations for children aged 18 through 35 months. All vaccines measured in the survey are at 90 percent or higher. The exception is the fourth diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (or DTaP) vaccine. It is at 82.1 percent (2007: 18-35 months for Texas).

Why vaccinate:

Vaccines help prevent serious disease.

Why vaccinate on time:

Children who have not completed the vaccination series at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 15 months to 18 months are at risk of getting sick.

Some vaccines are given in a series. Building immunity is similar to using building blocks to create a wall.. One by one, vaccines help to build immunity. Timing of vaccination is important.

What the State is doing:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) conducts public health surveillance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It tracks the number of children who receive their vaccines on time. It monitors the number of reported cases of these serious and preventable diseases.

DSHS works with doctors and nurses to help children receive their vaccines on time every time. DSHS works with local health departments to focus on the importance of vaccinating children on

time. With local health departments, it works to raise public awareness of vaccine preventable disease.

DSHS also works with local community civic and business leaders and business enterprises.

What is the recommended immunization schedule:

Tools have been created to help track and monitor when vaccines are due. One of the tools is the *Recommended Immunization Schedule*.

The *Recommended Immunization Schedule* is a medically approved schedule. It lists the different vaccines series for vaccine preventable disease. It is distributed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DSHS assists the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by distributing and promoting it.

Call the Texas Department of State Health Services for a free copy of the *Recommended Immunization Schedule*. Get it, post it, follow it.

What the community can do:

Be sure your children get their shots at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, between 15 months to 18 months, and a booster dose between 4 and 6 years of age.

Remember: take your babies to receive the 4th DTaP vaccine at 15-18 months.

Check with their doctors and health-care providers about children's vaccination schedules.

Use the *Recommended Immunization Schedule* as a guide.

Help distribute information about the importance of vaccinations for the entire family.

For more information:

To learn more, call the Texas Department of State Health Services toll free at 1-800-292-9152. You can also visit the Texas Department of State Health Services Web site at www.ImmunizeTexas.com.