Childhood Immunization Program
A guide for parents

Protect Your Health with Vaccination

CHILDHOOD VACCINES

800 555
www.haad.ae
What are infectious diseases?

Infectious diseases are caused by different types of germs and can be transmitted from person to person. The best way to prevent many infectious diseases is through vaccination. In order to protect them from catching these diseases, most vaccines are given during the child’s first two years.

What diseases are prevented by vaccines?

**Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis, or TB, is a highly contagious disease caused by bacteria. It mainly affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body such as the brain, kidneys, and bones. Common symptoms of TB include feelings of sickness or weakness, weight loss and night sweats. Symptoms of TB in the lungs may include cough, chest pain, and coughing up blood. Symptoms of TB in other parts of the body depend on the infected site. TB spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
**Hepatitis B**

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus that affects the liver. Hepatitis B can cause mild symptoms that last for few months, or it can lead to long term illnesses if the virus stays in the person’s body. Most people who have long term hepatitis B have no symptoms, but the infection is still very serious, and can lead to liver damage and liver cancer. Hepatitis B virus spreads mainly through contact with blood and reproductive secretions.

**Pneumococcal**

Pneumococcal is a group of diseases caused by bacteria. The bacteria affect different parts of the body such as the lining of the brain, lungs or blood. These diseases are dangerous and can lead to brain damage, hearing loss, blindness, paralysis, and even death. Symptoms of the disease vary depending on the part of the body infected. Common symptoms of the disease include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, confusion, stiff neck, sensitivity to light, joint pain and chills. Pneumococcal disease spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
**Diphtheria**

Diphtheria is a serious and a life threatening condition caused by bacteria that live in the mouth and throat of an infected person. The disease starts with symptoms of the common cold. After that, the bacteria cause a thick covering on the back of the throat which makes it hard to breathe or swallow. Diphtheria can lead to serious health problems such as abnormal heart beat, heart failure, paralysis and may lead to death especially among children below 5 years of age. Diphtheria spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.

**Pertussis**

Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is caused by bacteria that affect the respiratory system. The disease starts with symptoms of the common cold. After 1 to 2 weeks the coughing spells become very severe, making it hard for the child to eat, drink, or breathe. Pertussis mainly affects young babies and children, and can lead to lung infection, brain damage and death. Pertussis spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
**Tetanus**

Tetanus, commonly known as lockjaw, is a disease caused by bacteria in the soil which enter the body through breaks in the skin. Three weeks after being infected, the person may develop headache, jaw cramping and painful or stiffness muscle. Tetanus is a very dangerous disease. It can lead to breathing problems and paralysis. Muscle stiffness can be so severe that it can break an infected child’s spine or bones.

**Haemophilus influenza type b**

Haemophilus influenza type b, commonly known as Hib, is caused by bacteria. It is a serious disease that mainly affects babies and children below 5 years of age. The symptoms of Hib vary depending on the part of the body infected. The bacteria can cause infection in the lining of the brain, blood, lungs, throat, skin, joint and bone. Babies and children who are affected by the bacteria need to be treated in hospital. Hib spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
Polio
Polio is caused by a virus that affects the nervous system. It is a serious disease that affects children. Most people with polio have no early symptoms. A few will have minor symptoms such as fever, tiredness, headache, nausea and vomiting, sore throat, and stiff neck and back. Polio can progress very rapidly and can lead to paralysis and death. The polio virus spreads thorough the stool of the infected person, when they do not wash their hands properly after using the toilet.

Measles
Measles is a highly contagious infectious disease caused by a virus. The symptoms of the disease start with fever, followed by cough, runny nose, and red eyes. After that, a rash erupts, which starts at the head and spreads to the rest of the body. Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and small children. It can lead to lung infection, brain damage, deafness, and sometimes death. Measles spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
Mumps
Mumps is a disease caused by a virus. The symptoms of mumps include fever, headache, muscle pain, tiredness, loss of appetite, and swollen glands under the ears or jaw. However, some people may have the disease with no symptoms. Most cases of mumps are mild with no complications. However, it can lead to serious health problems such as infection in the lining of the brain, deafness and in very rare cases can lead to death. The disease spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.

Rubella
Rubella, also known as German measles, is caused by a virus. The symptoms of rubella include a rash that starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body and fever. However, some people may have the disease with no symptoms. Normally, rubella is considered as a mild disease. However, it can lead to serious health problems such as brain infection and bleeding. Rubella is most dangerous if a pregnant woman gets infected. It can lead to miscarriage or birth defects such as deafness, intellectual disability and heart defects. Rubella spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
Chickenpox
Chickenpox, also known as varicella, is caused by a virus. The symptoms of chickenpox include a rash with itchy and fluid-filled blisters. The symptoms may also include fever, headache and tiredness. Normally, chickenpox is a mild disease with no complications. However, some people with low immunity may develop serious health problem such as dehydration, lung infection, brain infection, blood problems, and bone and joint infections. Chickenpox disease spreads through the air, when the infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. It is also spread through touching fluid from the blisters.
### What is the HAAD Childhood Immunization Schedule?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Vaccines and Diseases prevent against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>Hexavalent (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib, Hep B, Polio) Pneumococcal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>Hexavalent (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib, Hep B, Polio) Pneumococcal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Pentavalent (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib, Hep B) Oral Polio Pneumococcal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Measles, Mumps, Rubella Chickenpox (Varicella)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>Tetravalent (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib) Polio Pneumococcal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Do I have to have my child vaccinated on time?

It is important to take your child to all the scheduled vaccines to ensure protection. However, if you missed one appointment, you should ask for another appointment as soon as possible.
What are the side effects of vaccinations?

Vaccines are like any other medicine and could cause some side-effects including redness or pain in the injected area. The risk of severe reaction is very rare. Talk to your doctor if your child has an allergy to any type of food, specific substance, or medicines.

Should I still get my child vaccinated if they are sick?

If your child has a minor illness they can still be vaccinated. If your child has a high fever or severe illness you will need to reschedule the appointment until they recover.

What should I do after my child is vaccinated?

- Give your child paracetamol to relieve fever or pain, if required.
- If you have any concerns or worries regarding any vaccine that your child was given, please talk to your doctor.

What if I have more questions about vaccination?

If you have any questions about vaccination contact your health care provider or HAAD.

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