

At Pediatric Physicians, we follow the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statements regarding immunizations schedules and vaccine-preventable diseases in children and adolescence.

[AAP president: Undermining research on vaccines, autism ‘poses a threat’ to children’s health](#)

- AAP President Dr. Susan Kressly emphasized that extensive research has consistently shown no link between vaccines and autism, and efforts to promote false connections endanger children's health.
- Dr. Kressly called on the government to support vaccines, stressing the importance of accurate information and access to immunization, especially as measles cases rise across the US.

Experts Say: *“The measles vaccine has saved countless lives and prevented serious complications such as pneumonia and brain swelling. Ensuring that children receive their vaccines on schedule is critical to keeping this dangerous disease under control.”*

— Dr. Adam J. Ratner, member of the Committee on Infectious Diseases and editor of the “Red Book.”

The 2025 recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedules have been approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Academy of Physician Associates, and National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. The schedules are revised annually to reflect current recommendations for the use of vaccines licensed by the US Food and Drug Administration

Measles Key Facts

- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can lead to serious health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling), and death. The virus spreads easily and can survive for up to 2 hours on surfaces or in the air.
- The MMR vaccine is administered in two doses, with the first dose recommended at 12–15 months of age and the second at 4–6 years. [Two doses are about 97% effective at preventing measles](#), providing long-term immunity.
- Common side effects from the vaccine include soreness and a mild rash or redness at the injection site, a fever, and temporary pain or stiffness in the joints.

The Claim in Context

[Wellness influencers and anti-vaccine advocates falsely](#) assert that receiving the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is as dangerous as contracting measles itself. [Extensive research](#) demonstrates that the MMR vaccine is safe and significantly reduces the risk of contracting measles, a disease that can lead to severe complications and death.

Key Facts

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Evidence Snapshot

[Numerous studies](#) conducted over many years in multiple countries have confirmed the safety and efficacy of the MMR vaccine. The vaccine's benefits in preventing measles, mumps, and rubella far outweigh the [minimal risks](#) associated with vaccination, which can include swelling in the cheeks or neck, a temporary low platelet count, and allergic reactions. In contrast, [contracting measles can lead to severe health outcomes](#). Before the vaccine's introduction, there were up to 500 U.S. deaths annually from measles, all of which are now preventable through vaccination.

Why It Matters

Before the introduction of the measles vaccine in 1963, [major epidemics occurred approximately every 2–3 years, causing an estimated 2.6 million deaths globally each year](#). In the United States, widespread vaccination has led to a significant decline in measles cases and associated complications. High vaccination rates are essential to maintain community immunity, protecting those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions or because they are too young or pregnant. Immunization also protects individuals from measles and its complications, which can require hospitalization even in previously healthy children. In the recent Texas outbreak, for example, more than 100 children have been affected and many have required hospitalization.

RESOURCES & LINKS:

American Academy of Pediatrics - Measles Toolkit

<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/measles-toolkit/>

CDC - Centers for Disease Control - Measles Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/vaccine-considerations/index.html>

IDSA: .Infectious Disease Society of America - Measles Know the Facts

<https://www.idsociety.org/public-health/measles/know-the-facts/>