

# I VACCINATE

## I Vaccinate Key Messages April 2024

### **Michigan has confirmed the first cases of measles in the state since the outbreak five years ago in 2019.**

- Measles can cause serious complications. About 1 in 4 people in the U.S. who get measles will be hospitalized.
- Measles is highly contagious. It is so contagious that if one person has it, 9 out of 10 people around them will also become infected if they are not protected.
  - Your child can get measles just by being in a room where a person with measles has been, even up to two hours after that person has left.
  - An infected person can spread measles to others even before knowing they have the disease—from four days before developing the measles rash through four days afterward.
- Fortunately, the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is very effective. Two doses of measles vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles if exposed to the virus. One dose is about 93% effective.
  - Two doses of the MMR vaccine are recommended for children by doctors as the best way to protect against those diseases.

### **It's more important than ever for parents to keep their children up to date on vaccinations as additional cases of measles are identified across the country.**

- Fewer Michigan children are currently up-to-date on their routine vaccines because of postponed well-child visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, making it easier for diseases to spread.
- Immunization is the best way to protect your family and community against serious vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps and rubella.
- Increased immunization rates reduce the risk of disease outbreaks and protect entire communities, including individuals who are more vulnerable or those who are too young to receive immunizations.

### **Vaccination rates of younger children dropped during the pandemic as parents postponed well-child visits to avoid the risk of exposure to COVID-19.**

- The most recent data from MDHHS shows that only [66.6% of children aged 19 to 36 months](#) have completed their recommended doses in the primary childhood vaccine series – one of the lowest rates Michigan has seen since 2020.
  - This means that many young children in Michigan are vulnerable to potentially dangerous diseases.

- Most Michigan parents are making sure their kids are up to date on vaccinations, but when vaccination rates slip, it can become a problem for the whole community.
- Currently, only 31 out of 83 counties in Michigan have a childhood vaccination rate of 70% or more.
  - For most vaccine-preventable diseases, when less than 90 percent of children are vaccinated in a particular community, pockets of low vaccination create an environment where diseases can take hold and spread.

**There is absolutely no controversy around vaccines in the medical community. Doctors and other medical professionals agree: Vaccines are safe and effective at preventing disease and protecting communities from outbreaks.**

- Vaccinating your child is one of the safest and most effective things you can do to protect them.
- Vaccines are safe and effective, and they have played a significant role in preventing the spread of life-threatening diseases in our communities for decades.
- It's normal to have questions—it makes you a good parent!
- Make sure you are getting answers from credible sources. Talk to your child's doctor and explore resources like [Vaccinate.org](https://www.vaccinate.org).
- I Vaccinate provides Michigan parents with information and tools based on real medical science and research to help them protect their kids.
- **Now's the time for parents to call their child's health care provider and schedule an appointment to get caught up on routine vaccinations.**

**Global pandemics are a stark reminder of how diseases without vaccines can harm our nation's economy and public health.**

- Before vaccines, parents in the United States could expect that every year:
  - Polio would paralyze 10,000 children.
  - Pertussis (whooping cough) would kill 8,000 infants.
  - Measles would infect about 4 million children, killing about 500.
  - Rubella (German measles) would cause birth defects and intellectual disabilities in as many as 20,000 newborns.
  - Diphtheria would be one of the most common causes of death in school-aged children.
  - A bacterium called Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) would cause meningitis in 15,000 children, leaving many with permanent brain damage.

**Following [the CDC-recommended immunization schedule](#) protects children and teens from 16 vaccine-preventable diseases by age 18.**

- The schedule is recommended by the CDC and is approved by every major medical organization in the country, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

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- The recommended schedule has been developed so that your child is protected and receiving the vaccines at the age when he or she will have the best response to develop immunity.
- Infants and young children who do not follow the recommended immunization schedules and instead spread out shots—or leave out shots—are at risk of developing diseases during the time that the shots are delayed.
- This results in more frequent visits to the doctor's office, more stress and anticipation of shots and increased costs for you.