

10 Immunisation Questions to Ask Your Child's Healthcare Provider at Your Next Appointment

Pediatricians are the best source for information and answers about all things regarding your child's health – including their vaccinations. There's a lot to know about the safety, efficacy, and importance of vaccinations for your child's health. Below is a checklist of questions to ask the doctor at your child's next well-visit.



1

How does this vaccine work to help protect my child?

Understanding the science behind how vaccines work will help you feel confident about how they help to protect your child from diseases.

2

What does this vaccine help protect against?

Your child's pediatrician can explain why this vaccine is very important by telling you about the risks and prevalence of the disease that it helps protect your child against.

3

How safe are the vaccines my child will receive today?

Safety is a top priority for healthcare providers. Your child's pediatrician can provide you with background on the rigorous vaccination safety standards in your region.

4

Could any side effects occur from this vaccine and how do I prepare for them?

Possible side effects are a common question among many parents. Serious reactions are rare, and most side effects are minor and temporary.ⁱ To ensure you are best prepared, your child's pediatrician will discuss temporary reactions and any of your specific concerns

5

How do I know which vaccines my child is due for?

Your pediatrician can share your country's pediatric immunisation schedule and review where your child falls. This will help familiarize you with the vaccinations and their order.

6

Which vaccinations will be administered during our next visit?

Knowing when your child needs to return to the pediatrician for a check-up, and which vaccinations are due ahead, will be helpful to ensure your child stays on track.

7

What if my child is/gets behind on their vaccinations?

If your child falls behind on their routine immunisations, your pediatrician may work with you to develop a catch-up schedule, as appropriate, to get them back on track.

8

May I have a record of their vaccinations?

Records are useful to help keep track of your child's vaccinations and you may also be required to provide a record to their daycare, school, etc. Request a copy so you have it when the need arises.

9

Are there any current infectious disease outbreaks I should be aware of?

Pediatricians keep up to date with current global and regional outbreaks. If there are any diseases you should be aware of, they will discuss how to help keep your child protected.

10

How can I learn more about vaccinations?

Your pediatrician can point you to online resources, like the World Health Organization website, or may have informational materials for you in their office.

This material was developed in collaboration between the Excellence in Pediatrics Institute and Pfizer.

In October 2022, in response to recent trends of declining pediatric vaccination rates across Europe, the Excellence in Pediatrics Institute, with support from Pfizer, conducted an online survey of pediatric healthcare providers (HCPs) and civic, advocacy and HCP stakeholder organisations, that aimed to uncover barriers and potential solutions to better prioritise routine pediatric immunisation in Europe. Among key findings from the survey, a majority of respondents (58%) indicated that HCPs have the greatest influence on parents' decisions to vaccinate their child, and that HCPs are the most credible source of information about pediatric vaccination (64%). Approximately 37% of respondents also indicated that parent-friendly materials and education on pediatric immunisation frequently-asked-questions would be a most-helpful resource to more effectively encourage pediatric vaccination. Excellence in Pediatrics Institute and Pfizer are working together to apply these findings to develop new resources and encourage more conversations about routine pediatric immunisation between parents and HCPs.



ⁱ <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/vaccines-and-immunization-myths-and-misconceptions>