



Love them. Protect them. Immunize them.

Not only can immunizations save your child's life, a child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be denied attendance at schools and daycare facilities. In addition, some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disability and take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills or long-term care expenses. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment, usually covered by insurance.

Other vaccine-preventable diseases in addition to those listed to the right include polio, meningococcal disease, hepatitis B, tuberculosis, and Hib. For more information about the importance of immunizations and age appropriate immunization schedules, visit cdc.gov/vaccines.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children are no longer common in the United States, primarily due to safe and effective vaccines that prevent these diseases. Because of advances in medical science, children can now be protected against more diseases than ever before.

Vaccines involve some discomfort and may cause pain, redness, or tenderness at the site of the injection. This is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort and trauma of the following diseases these vaccines can prevent:

Measles is a highly-contagious lung infection. The measles virus gets into the air when someone who has it coughs or sneezes. It can also last for up to two hours on something they touched. Measles was one disease eliminated by the year 2000 in the U.S. Unfortunately, because some parents started opting out of the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine, the disease returned to the U.S. Complications of measles include pneumonia, brain swelling, and death.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis) is a lung infection that makes it hard to breathe due to severe coughing. People can breathe in the pertussis bacteria when someone who has whooping cough coughs or sneezes. It can be life-threatening, especially in babies less than one year old. Whooping cough can lead to pneumonia, seizures, and slowed or stopped breathing.

Flu is a viral infection of the nose, lungs, and throat. When someone with the flu coughs, sneezes, or talks, droplets can spread up to six feet away. People get the virus from the air or by touching something the sick person touched and then touching their own nose or mouth. Up to 49,000 Americans die from the flu each year. Flu can also worsen asthma and diabetes.

Pneumococcal Disease can cause many types of illness, including pneumonia, ear and blood infections, and meningitis (which affects the brain and spinal cord). You can get this by coming into contact with an infected person's mucus or saliva. Complications can be serious and fatal.

Tetanus is a disease that causes lockjaw, breathing problems, muscle spasms, paralysis, and death. The bacteria that causes tetanus is found in soil, dust, and manure. It can get in your body through a cut or open sore, and 10% to 20% of tetanus cases are fatal. Deaths are more common in people who are older than 60 or who have diabetes.

If we continue vaccinating now, and vaccinating completely, parents in the future may be able to trust that some diseases of today will no longer be around to harm their children in the future.

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Patient Testimonial

An angel in disguise...

"Two days before my discharge, an angel entered the room. She was a Nurse Navigator with ConnectCare3, and she proceeded to help me get my life in order."

*--Linda Konrad
Vero Beach, FL*

In late January 2014, I was struck down with cecal volvulus (twisted small intestine). I've had this before. It means an emergency operation followed by a week in the hospital, then six weeks of recovery at home. This time, the operation was a little more "thorough," which may be why adhesions formed so quickly and then strangled my gut. Eight days after the first operation, they had to go in again, and a day later, once more.

Three abdominal operations in two weeks! I was a mess, left with a partially blocked and now perforated small intestine. I had four holes in my torso covered with bags. I was in the hospital until late March. I felt like a prisoner in a supermax facility.

Two days before my discharge, an angel entered the room. She was a Nurse Navigator with ConnectCare3, and she proceeded to help me get my life in order. The usual six weeks of recovery turned into seven months and another operation. The Nurse Navigator was my liaison with a recalcitrant insurance clearing house, a medical supply company stuck in first gear, and an odd assortment of home health nurses. The Nurse Navigator found the surgeon who specialized in my problem and finally "fixed" me. She was with me every step of the way, whenever I needed her, and if I didn't call her, she always checked in with me to learn my status. I had never heard of ConnectCare3 before this angel came along. Now I can't say enough good things about this company.