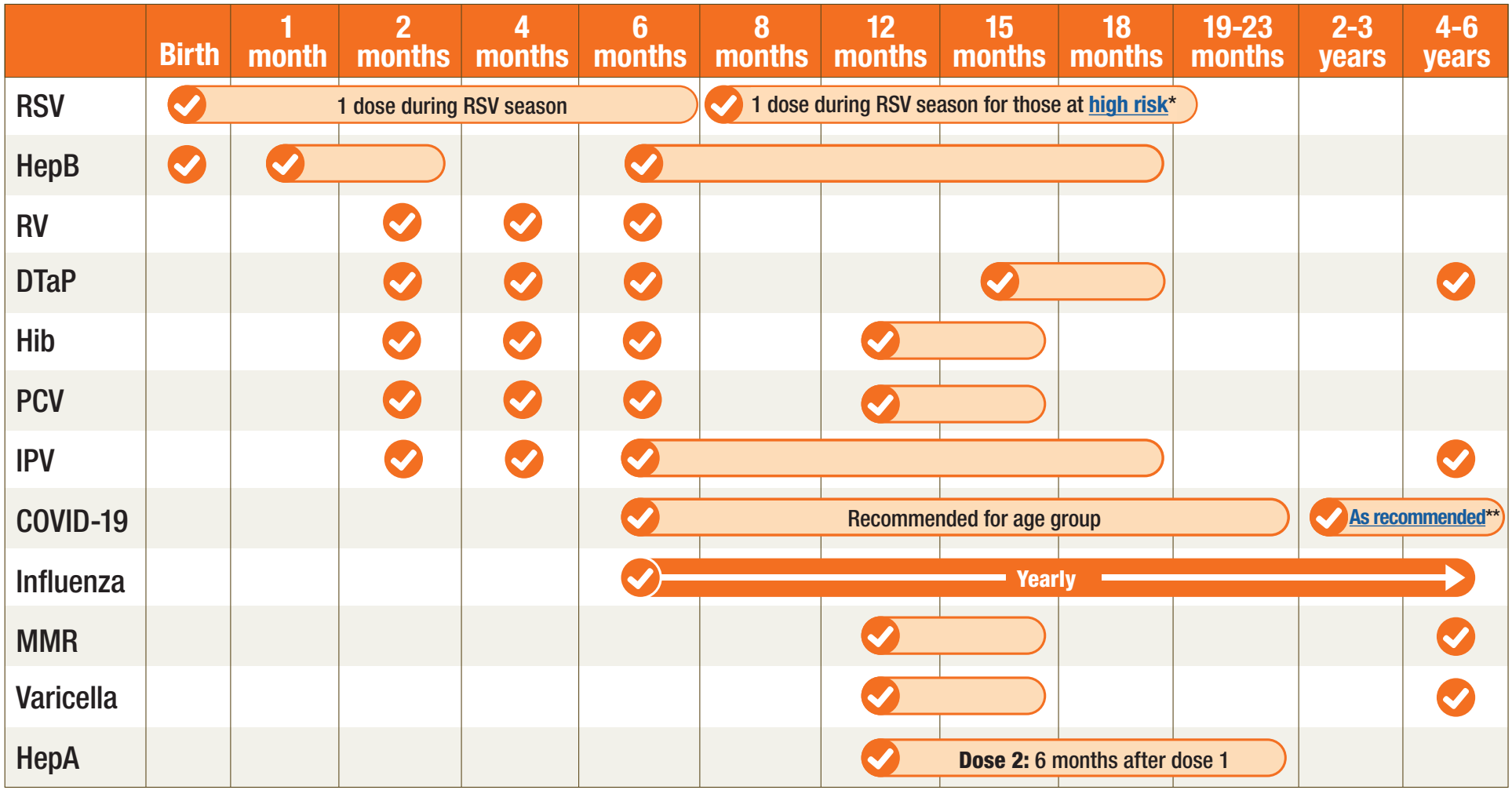
AAP Recommended Immunization Schedule — 2026

Children Birth Through 6 Years Old



For more information, visit healthychildren.org/immunizationschedules.

*https://www.healthychildren.org/rsv
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A Companion to the 2026 AAP Recommended Immunization Schedule

Children: Birth-6 years old (on reverse)

Vaccine	Disease vaccine prevents	About the disease	About the vaccine
RSV	Respiratory Syncytial Virus	Contagious viral infection affecting the lungs and respiratory tract. It is transmitted through coughs, sneezes, and contact with virally contaminated surfaces.	RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization before their first birthday. But, the RSV vaccine reduces RSV-related hospitalizations during babies' first RSV season by 80–90%
HepB	Hepatitis B	Viral infection of the liver; infants and young children more susceptible to severe or chronic (long-lasting) hepatitis, a leading cause of liver cancer	Babies receive the first dose at birth because HepB positive mothers can transmit the virus to the newborn during birth. Even for mothers who test negative, the birth dose is a safeguard against incorrect testing or transmission by a close contact who unknowingly carries the virus.
RV	Rotavirus	Viral infection causing severe diarrhea and vomiting. Spread through contact with contaminated food and fecal matter. Poor hand washing practices can promote its spread.	Every year, 55-70 thousand children in the U.S. were hospitalized for rotavirus. Once the vaccine was introduced, hospitalization rates dropped by 80%.
DTaP	Diptheria	Tetanus (aka lockjaw) is caused by entry of a common environmental bacterium (*Clostridium tetani*) through broken skin. Once inside the body, the bacteria produce toxins that cause muscle rigidity and spasms. Both Diptheria and Pertussis ("whooping cough") are infections of the respiratory tract, but are caused by two different species of bacteria. Infants are at heightened risk for severe disease.	The DTaP vaccine is called a toxoid vaccine because it contains inactive versions of the toxins produced by the bacteria that cause tetanus, diptheria, and pertussis. The pertussis component also contains purified inactivated bacterial proteins.
	Tetanus		
	Pertussis		
Hib	Haemophilus influenzae type b	Contagious bacterial infection that can target the lungs (pneumonia), the brain and spinal cord (meningitis), or the bloodstream. The bacteria can spread through the air and by direct contact.	Pre-vaccine, 20,000 children became sick with Hib in the US. Within 2 years of introduction of the vaccine in 1980, there was a 71% reduction in the disease. Now it has dropped by over 99% with less than 50 cases per year.
PCV	Pneumococcal infection	This vaccine protects against multiple strains of bacteria (scientific name *Streptococcus pneumoniae*). These bacteria are spread through direct contact with saliva or mucus and cause infections, like pneumonia (lungs), otitis (ears), meningitis (lining of brain and spinal cord)	This vaccine is particularly effective at preventing severe disease from pneumococcus infections in infants and young children, reducing risk of pneumonia, meningitis, bloodstream infections and death. Additionally, it is estimated that the vaccine prevents around 6-15% of pneumococcus caused ear infections.
IPV	Polio	Spread through mouth contact with hands, food, or water contaminated with infected stool, via airborne droplets, or direct contact, this viral infection targets the nervous system and can result in irreversible paralysis.	Polio is close to global eradication thanks to immunization regimes. Continued vaccination is key to eliminating the disease for good.
COVID-19	COVID-19	A respiratory infection with symptoms including fever, cough, fatigue that range from mild to severe. The virus spreads through airborne particles and direct contact.	mRNA and protein based COVID-19 vaccine options are available. Both types are updated each fall to best protect against currently circulating strains of the COVID-19 virus.
Influenza	Influenza (flu)	A contagious viral infection targeting the nose, throat, and occasionally the lungs. The flu spreads easily through airborne droplets and direct contact with infected individuals.	Seasonal flu vaccines are designed to target the flu viruses scientists predict are most likely to be circulating in the upcoming flu season by analyzing global surveillance data.
MMR	Measles	An extremely contagious viral infection spread through air and touch. It causes high fevers, coughs, red eyes, runny nose, and a rash. Serious cases can result in blindness or death.	This vaccine is offered as a single vaccine in order to reduce the number of individual shots and office visits, and reduces the time patients are susceptible to these diseases. Alternatively, three separate shots would be administered over the course of ~56 days, requiring three separate appointments for each. The vaccine is highly protective against all three viruses. Measles outbreaks in recent years are attributed to incomplete immunization. Of the 2026 total measles cases in the United States so far, 92% of cases are unvaccinated or unknown vaccine status.
	Mumps	A contagious viral infection spread through air and touch. It can cause fevers, swollen cheeks, tender swollen jaw, and fatigue.	
	Rubella	A contagious viral infection spread through air and touch. It can cause a sore throat, rash, and low fevers.	
Varicella	Varicella (Chickenpox)	A blister-causing virus often causing a characteristic itchy rash. It is spread through coughing, sneezing, contact with broken chicken pox blisters, or by virus particles made airborne by broken blisters. Infected individuals increase risk for secondary infection and complications.	While many people think of chicken pox as a harmless rash, vaccination prevents rare complications. Additionally, when children are vaccinated with chicken pox they are much less likely to get shingles (caused by reactivation of the virus that causes chicken pox that can lie dormant in nerve cells) later in life. If you think your child may have already had chicken pox, vaccination may be recommended as other rashes can be misclassified as chicken pox.
HepA	Hepatitis A	A contagious viral infection that attacks the liver and is spread by contaminated food products or direct contact with an infected person.	Young children with Hepatitis A infections often experience no symptoms, but may spread the virus to others. Childcare centers were often epicenters of wider outbreaks. The introduction of the vaccine in the 1980's has greatly reduced the prevalence of the disease.

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VaCS supports the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) 2026 Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule (found on reverse), which is widely supported by over 230 medical and professional organizations and has been endorsed by New York State.

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