

Importance of Immunizing Your Children

Children need immunizations to protect them from dangerous childhood diseases, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the federal government's clearing house for health information and study.

The CDC is highlighting the need for children to have their shots up to date as part of National Infant Immunizations Week.

Parents who refuse to vaccinate their children, often for incorrect or unproven reasons, also risk infecting adults whose immunity has worn off - and for whom contracting the disease is potentially deadly! This includes teachers and other school personnel, who may still be immune but might be pregnant, the CDC says.

Some parents have voiced concern that there might be a link between the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism. However, a new study in the New England Journal of Medicine has concluded that "there was no association between the age at the time of vaccination, the time since vaccination or the date of vaccination and the development of autistic disorder."

Also, this year, all Virginia students must have a Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis) shot BEFORE they can enter 6th grade.

Additional information about vaccinations is available from the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/> or on National PTA's web site at

http://www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1190929469218.html

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