

# VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



Dallas County  
Health and Human Services

SPRING 2014 - NEWSLETTER



April 26-May 3, 2014



National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to improve the health of children two years old or younger. NIIW will also be celebrated as part of World Immunization Week (WIW), an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO).

During World Immunization week (WIW), all six World Health Organization Regions, including more than 180 Member States, territories, and areas, will simultaneously promote immunization, advance equity in the use of vaccines, and universal access to vaccination services as well as enable cooperation on cross-border immunization activities.

As part of World Immunization Week, NIIW will be held in conjunction with the Pan American Health Organization's Vaccination Week in the Americas. Communities across the

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# VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



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## Vaccine Preventable Diseases in Infants and Young Children

Vaccine-preventable disease levels are at or near record lows. Even though most infants and toddlers have received all recommended vaccines by age 2, many underimmunized children remain, leaving the potential for outbreaks of disease. Many adolescents and adults are under-immunized as well. At a glance here are some of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases, which can cause serious illness in infants and young children.

### NIIW (Continued from page 1)

Western hemisphere will participate in awareness and education events, planned in conjunction with State and Local Health Departments, Pan American Health Organization, and the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission.

Since 1994, local and state health departments, national immunization partners, healthcare professionals, community leaders and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have worked together through NIIW to highlight the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and children, and to call attention to immunization achievements.

Several important milestones already have been reached in controlling vaccine-preventable diseases among infants worldwide. Vaccines have drastically reduced infant death and disability caused by preventable diseases in the United States.

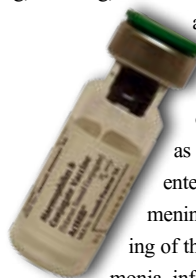
Routine childhood immunizations in one birth cohort prevents about 20 million cases of disease and about 42,000 deaths. It also saves about \$13.5 billion in direct costs.

It's easy to think of these as diseases of the past. But they still exist. Children in the United States can—and do—still get some of these diseases.

Through immunization, we can now protect infants and children from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two.

### Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib)

The bacterium is spread through the air by coughing, sneezing, and breathing. The bacterium can cause a severe infection, occurring mostly in infants and children younger than 5 years of age, and lifelong disability as well as death. If the bacterium enters the bloodstream, it can cause meningitis (an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), pneumonia, inflammation of the throat as well as other medical conditions.

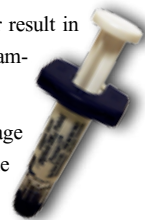


### Pneumococcal Disease

The disease is caused by a bacterium known as streptococcus pneumoniae, or pneumococcus. Pneumococcal infections can range from ear and sinus infections to pneumonia and bloodstream

infections. Most pneumococcal infections are mild. However some can be fatal or result in long-term problems, such as brain damage or hearing loss.

Children younger than 2 years of age are among those most at risk for the disease, as well as children in group child care and who have certain diseases (sickle cell disease, HIV infection, and chronic heart or lung conditions).

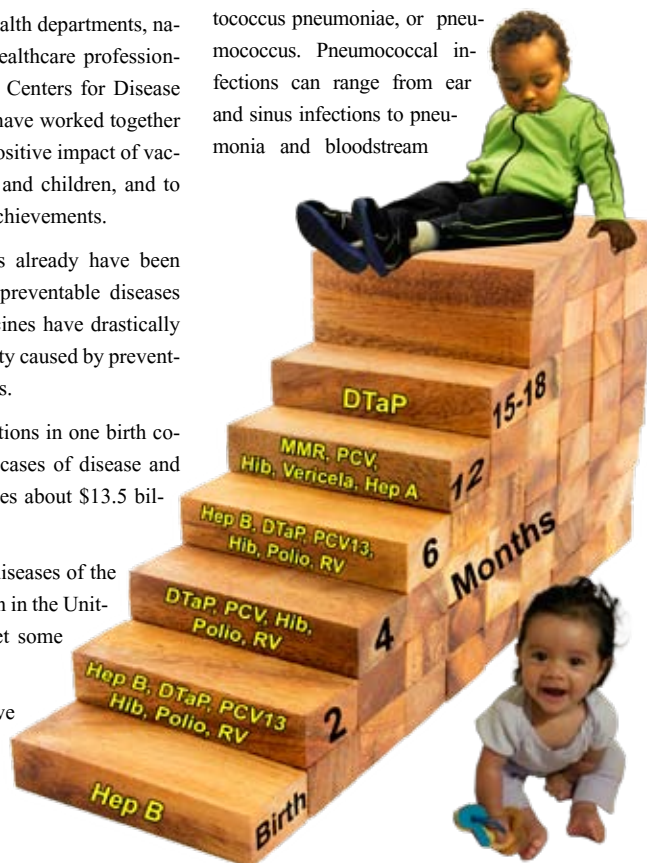


### Rotavirus

This is a virus that causes gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines). The rotavirus disease causes severe watery diarrhea, often with vomiting, fever and abdominal pain. In babies and young children, it can lead to dehydration (loss of body fluids).



Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe diarrhea in infants and young children worldwide. Globally it causes more than a half a million deaths each year in children younger than 5 years of age.



### Diseases and Vaccines for Prevention

Diphtheria	DTaP
Haemophilus influenzae	Hib
Hepatitis A	HepA
Hepatitis B	HepB
Influenza (flu)	Influenza
Measles	MMR
Mumps	MMR
Pertussis (whooping cough)	DTaP
Pneumococcal disease	PCV
Polio	IPV
Rotavirus	RV
Rubella (German measles)	MMR
Tetanus (lockjaw)	DTaP
Chickenpox	Varicella



# VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



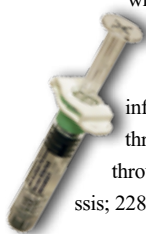
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## Pertussis (whooping cough)

The disease is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection caused by the bacterium *Bordetella Pertussis* and is spread from person to person, usually by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria.

Many babies who get pertussis, (whooping cough) are infected by their parents, siblings and caregivers who may not know they are infected with the disease.



Pertussis can cause serious illness in infants, children and adults and can be life threatening especially in infants. From 2000 through 2012, 255 persons died from pertussis; 228 of these were less than six months old.

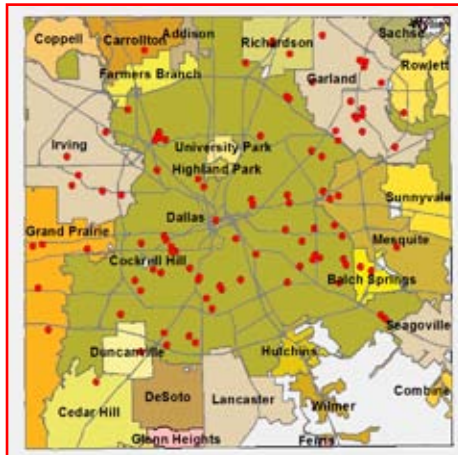
Before pertussis immunizations were available, nearly all children developed whooping cough. In the U.S., prior to pertussis immunization, between 150,000 and 260,000 cases of pertussis were reported each year, with up to 9,000 pertussis-related deaths.

For maximum protection against pertussis, children should receive 5 Dtap shots: Shots 1-3 given at (2, 4, and 6 months of age), shot 4 should be given between (15 and 18 months of age), and shot 5 should be given before entering school at (4-6 years of age).

## Pertussis Trends in Dallas

In 2013, Dallas county had a 55% increase in reported pertussis cases as compared to 2012, with 84% of pertussis cases occurring in infants and children under 18 years of age.

Distribution of Pertussis Cases in Infants - 2013 (age < 1 year)



Children 5-14 years of age made up 40% of pertussis cases in Dallas and 74% of hospitalizations were among infants under the age of one. Of the cases eligible for vaccination, one or more doses of pertussis vaccine had been received. One death of a pertussis case was reported in an infant too young to be vaccinated.

Pertussis cases by race/ethnicity was highest in the hispanic population at 46.1%.

There are several important factors leading to the increased reporting of pertussis cases. These include waning immunity in adults/adolescents, heightened awareness of the disease among clinicians, school nurses, parents, and general public.

## Proclamation from the Governor of Texas



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Proper immunizations for toddlers and infants are vital to their long-term health. Immunizations not only protect young Texans from disease and infection, but they also protect the community from the spread of potentially life-threatening diseases. Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available.

It is important for parents and caregivers to maintain proper and updated vaccination records for their children, and to make and keep their children's vaccination appointments. All Texans must be educated about the successes achieved through immunizations, and we must continue to immunize children to prevent potentially devastating consequences.

Each year, a week in April is designated to recognize the importance of timely immunizations of infants and children. During this week, parents, caregivers and other health care providers come together to promote awareness about the benefits of vaccinating children before their second birthdays.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the importance of childhood immunizations. Together, we can continue to make a difference for the future.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 26-May 3, 2014, to be

### Infant Immunization Week

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition thereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.



*Rick Perry*  
Governor of Texas

## Pertussis Facts

Of those infants who are hospitalized with pertussis about:

- 1 in 5 get pneumonia (lung infection)
- 1 in 100 will have convulsions (violent, uncontrolled shaking)
- Half will have apnea (slowed or stopped breathing)
- 1 in 300 will have encephalopathy (disease of the brain)
- 1 in 100 will die

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## Vaccines For Children Program

Texas Vaccines For Children Program (TVFC) helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them, and helps many more children have a better opportunity of getting their vaccines according to the recommended immunization schedule.

Vaccines available through the TVFC Program are those recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) purchases and distributes the vaccines to private and public

health care providers who are enrolled in the TVFC Program. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services fund the program through Medicaid.

If your child's doctor isn't a TVFC provider, you can contact one of the following places to get TVFC vaccinations:

- Public Health Clinic (Local Health Department)
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- Rural Health Clinic (RHC)

In general, state health departments manage the TVFC Programs, but in some locations it may be managed by a city or territorial health department.

Today there are more than 6500 Texas providers enrolled in TVFC. Texas leads the nation in the number of uninsured and underinsured children. Out of 6500 Texas providers 225 are in Dallas. Immunization is one of the best ways parents can protect their infants from serious childhood diseases before age 2. Check to see if your baby is up to date on immunizations.

### There are numerous benefits to being a TVFC provider:

- One of the most important benefits is removing barriers to immunizations.
- Cost savings of immunizing versus treatment for diseases.
- Facilitates more children receiving their complete series of immunizations.



Parts or full contents used within this newsletter were extracted from the publications of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas Department of State Health Services website.

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