



- Compassion
- Courtesy
- Respect



Brent K. Eberhard, M.D.

Immunizations



Immunizations are one of the best methods of preventative medicine against serious infectious diseases. Immunizations have significantly lowered infant and child illnesses and mortality.

How they Work:

Immunizations work by exposing the child's immune system to a portion (antigen) of the bacteria or virus. In some cases, the exposure is to a live attenuated virus. In either case, the antigen causes an immune response and the memory B cells produce antibodies against the antigen. Antibodies are the first line of defense. They are like sticky pads that collect the inciting germ and prevent spread and progression. Some immunizations require boosters as antibodies fade over time.

Herd Immunity:

Immunizations provide a great benefit in a concept called "herd immunity." Herd immunity is when the vast majority of a community is vaccinated, thus preventing epidemics and spread of illnesses. Herd immunity protects newborns, who are not protected, from potential exposures. If a significant portion of individuals in a community are not immunized, then the community's infants, immunocompromised, and even those partially immunized are at risk of exposure and disease.

Side Effects:

Since immunizations cause an immune response, it is common to feel tired, feverish and achy for 1-3 days. This is a good sign, signifying that the body is producing protective antibodies. Also, redness and an

inflammatory nodule are common at the site of injection. Sometimes a lump can persist for 1-2 weeks at the site of injection. Rarely, the injection can cause tissue damage, hematoma, or infection. Infection can be distinguished from a local inflammatory response by a more gradual course, progressive redness and swelling, and indurated skin (hard and tender). Serious reactions to immunizations are very rare. Follow up immediately if signs of anaphylaxis (hives, swelling, difficulty breathing), seizures, or high prolonged fevers.

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Administration:

Most vaccines are administered intramuscularly. Most of the time, the large thigh muscle is used. Some vaccines are administered subcutaneously (into the fat layer between the skin and the muscle). Different sized needles are used for the different administrations. Medical Assistants are trained in the proper administration of immunizations.

Documentation:

Immunizations are recorded in the electronic medical record and with the state vaccine data base. You are encouraged to bring your yellow immunization record with you to have your own personal record as well.

If you have any questions call (801) 773-4840 Extension 3248

**For appointments, call (801) 773-4865
Urgent Care: M-F 5-9, Sat. 9-5
After Hours: (801) 299-2770**

#1 Make sure to review the vaccine information sheets we have given you.

#2 You may give a fever reducer like acetaminophen as directed by Dr. Eberhard.

#3 Pay attention to your child. Call us if you see something that concerns you.