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# Your baby's first vaccines

Congratulations on your newborn! This is an exciting time, and you may have many questions about how to give your baby the healthiest start in life. One of the most important steps is making sure your child is protected against serious illnesses through routine vaccinations.

In Canada, childhood vaccines are provided free of charge. The schedule usually starts from birth to 2 months, with additional doses at 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, and again between ages 4 and 6 years. These vaccines protect against diseases such as measles, whooping cough, polio, hepatitis B, meningitis, and more—before your child is exposed to them.



Vaccines work by training your baby's immune system to recognize and fight harmful viruses and bacteria. This protection is especially important in the first years of life, when children are most vulnerable to severe complications from infections. Following the recommended schedule gives your baby the best chance to stay healthy and avoid preventable illnesses.

You can review the complete Canadian vaccine schedule and learn what to expect at each appointment on the Government of [Canada's childhood vaccination page](#)