

HELP YOUR CHILD MAINTAIN GOOD HEALTH

Preventive Health Guidelines for Children



PARENTS: Help your kids stay healthy. Learn about Let's Go! 5-2-1-0

Letsgo.org



Parents: Help Your Child Stay Healthy for Life

When your child becomes very ill or hurt, it's natural to seek medical care. Keep in mind that preventive care is just as important to your child's health and well-being. Take an active role in managing your child's health to make sure they receive well child exams, regular screenings and immunizations. Choose your child's primary care provider early, know about your child's health needs and keep exact records of your child's health history.

Partnering in Your Child's Health

Your best resource in managing your child's health is a primary care physician. Regular well child check-ups let your doctor assess your child's development, screen for possible health concerns, advise you on child rearing and healthy lifestyle practices and give immunizations to protect your child from serious diseases. Your doctor will remind you when to bring your child in for certain immunizations and screenings.

No one knows your child better than you. Give your doctor your child's health history, and talk about any signs of illness or any development issues your child may show. Ask questions and make sure you understand what your doctor tells you about your child's care, immunizations, recommended testing and prescription medicine.

How to Find a Primary Care Provider

Valley Medical Center manages a neighborhood network of primary care clinics, staffed with family practitioners. Please visit valleymed.org/pcp to help match your child with a provider that best fits your needs.



Urgent Care—When the Unexpected Happens

For times when you can't wait for a regularly scheduled appointment, Valley Medical Center's urgent care clinics offer walk-in appointments, telehealth video visits and after-hours care for injuries, illness and other clinic services when the issue is not life threatening and emergency room care is not needed. Urgent care is also less expensive than the ER, with shorter wait times. Avoid waiting in the clinic and get in line online at an urgent care near you at valleymed.org/wait-times.

Recommended Guidelines

Your child's preventive healthcare includes immunizations, screenings for development, nutrition and behavior conditions, as well as a review of risks for diseases and conditions. Your doctor will also give advice for keeping your child safe and nurtured as they grow. If your child will be in competitive sports, let your doctor know at the yearly well child check-up, so they can do any needed testing and complete forms you may need.

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Your Child's Preventive Health Checklist



		0 – 24 Months	2 – 6 Years	7 – 10 Years	11 – 21 Years
SCREENING	Head circumference	Every well visit			
	Body Mass Index (BMI) Percentile	Every well visit			
	Developmental / behavioral assessment	Every well visit			
	Blood pressure	Every well visit starting at age 3			
	Vision screening	Once between 3 – 5 years			
	Hearing screening	Periodic subjective or objective screening at every well visit			
	Nutritional assessment	Every well visit			
	Activity assessment	Every well visit			
	Dental assessment	Every well visit			
	Hereditary & metabolic screening	Birth & 2 weeks			
	Depression screening				Every well visit starting at age 10
	Screening for sexually transmitted diseases				Consult doctor, if sexually active

Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule¹

		Birth	1 mon	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	24 mos	4-6 years	11-12 years	13-14 years	15 years	16-18 years	
VACCINATIONS	Tetanus, diphtheria, Pertussis			x	x	x		x			x	x				
	Hepatitis B	x		x		x										
	Haemophilus Influenzae Type B			x	x	x		x								
	Inactivated Poliovirus			x	x		x				x					
	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)							x				x				
	Chickenpox (Varicella)							x				x				
	Pneumococcal disease (PCV)			x	x	x		x								
	Pneumococcal disease (PPV)										Recommended for certain high-risk groups					
	Hepatitis A											x				
	Influenza ²											Annually				
	Covid Vaccine											Annually as directed per the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)				
	Rotavirus (RV) (meningococcus, MCVC)		x	x	x											
	Menigococcus (MCV4)												Age 11			Age 16
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)												2 – 3 times for age 9 and older				

1. Recommended immunization schedules subject to change. Catch-up immunization will be needed if your child did not receive any of the recommended vaccines according to schedule. Consult your child's doctor.
2. Yearly immunization recommended for children 6 months or older. Immunization schedules for influenza may change. Check with your child's doctor.



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