

# Why Do We Need So Many Vaccines?

## ***When is one vaccine not enough?***

You need more than one vaccine when it is a “series” vaccine! Many childhood vaccines like DTaP, MMR, Varicella, and polio are part of a 2 to 5 shot series given over a period of time. Each dose in a series increases the chance that the response to the disease will be correct. Missing doses can affect how well the vaccine works and gives opportunity for infection between doses.



## ***What should I do if my child has fallen behind on their vaccines?***

Usually a vaccine series does not have to be re-started if your child has fallen behind.

Your health care provider can give you a schedule for your child’s vaccinations to help them catch up. It may mean that they get their vaccines closer together until they catch up.

## ***Is it safe to get multiple vaccines at the same time?***

Yes! This has been studied by scientists for many years. No studies have shown that giving multiple vaccines at once is harmful. A child’s immune system comes into contact with many potential infections every day. They put things in their mouths, play with toys on the floor, and explore their environment in many ways. They can be exposed to many potential infections at once without any harm. Vaccines work in much the same way!

## ***Where can I get more information?***

For more information on vaccine series visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/schedules/index](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/schedules/index) or check with your healthcare provider.



10/24



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