



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Immunize On Time, Every Time

Immunizations are critical to keeping a young child healthy. They teach a child's immune system to recognize and fight off dangerous diseases. Because of immunizations, diseases such as polio, meningitis and measles are rare today. However, if we stop immunizing our children, some contagious diseases could return. August is National Immunization Awareness Month and First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission reminds parents and caregivers of the importance of staying on schedule when it comes to vaccinations.

Just as babies rely on their parents for feeding, bathing and sleeping routines, health officials rely on parents to begin an immunization schedule when their babies are two months old to protect them from disease. Unfortunately, many parents do not follow that advice, putting their children and others at risk. That's why First 5 Butte County and the California Department of Health Services recommend immunizations be given to children according to the following schedule:

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Immunization	Timetable
Hepatitis B	Immunize: 1 st dose between birth and 2 months, 2 nd dose between 1 and 4 months and 3 rd dose between 6 and 18 months
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	Immunize: 1 st dose at 2 months, 2 nd dose at 4 months, 3 rd dose at 6 months, 4 th dose between 15 and 18 months and 5 th dose between 4 and 6 years
H. influenzae type b	Immunize: 1 st dose at 2 months, 2 nd dose at 4 months, 3 rd dose at 6 months and 4 th dose between 12 and 15 months
Inactivated Polio	Immunize: 1 st dose at 2 months, 2 nd dose at 4 months and 3 rd dose between 6 and 18 months
Pneumococcal Conjugate	Immunize: 1 st dose at 2 months, 2 nd dose at 4 months, 3 rd dose at 6 months and 4 th dose between 12 and 15 months
Measles, Mumps, Rubella	Immunize: 1 st dose between 12 and 15 months and 2 nd dose between 4 and 6 years
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Immunize: 1 st dose between 12 and 18 months and 2 nd dose between 4 and 6 years
Rotavirus	Immunize: 1 st dose at 2 months, 2 nd dose at 4 months, and 3 rd dose at 6 months

To ensure that your child receives the maximum benefit from immunizations, be sure to:

- Start your baby's shots at two months
- Make sure your child receives the right shots at the right time
- Keep a record of your child's shots every time you visit your doctor or clinic
- Ask your doctor when your child's next shots are due
- Ask your doctor if your child's shots can be entered into the Northern California regional immunization registry

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- Read the information you receive about the shots carefully, and observe your child for any signs he or she is not feeling well
- Immunization schedules do change, so it is important to check with your doctor to be sure your child is receiving his or her shots on time

Parents interested in immunizing their child should contact their child's pediatrician or Butte County Public Health Clinic Services in Oroville at (530) 538-7341 or in Chico at (530) 891-2731. The Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also maintains a current immunization schedule on its Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/>. For information about the regional immunization registry, call 1-888-466-2411.

For more information regarding immunizations and other ways to support our young children, please call First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission at (530) 538-7964 or visit www.buttecounty.net/bccfc.

About First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission distributes approximately \$2 million a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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