

Prepare for Your Child's Vaccine:

A Checklist for Children With Arthritis and Their Families

Vaccines help prevent serious infections. Juvenile arthritis and some arthritis medicines may affect which vaccines your child can receive and when.

Use this checklist to prepare for your child's vaccination visit. Do not stop or change your child's arthritis medicine unless the healthcare provider who prescribed it tells you to.

Before the Visit

- ☐ Check which vaccines may be due.
 - Review the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommended immunization schedule (<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>) as a general guide.
 - Children with juvenile arthritis may need different vaccination timing or guidance because of their condition or medicines. Ask your child's pediatrician and pediatric rheumatology care team which vaccines are recommended and when they should be given.
- ☐ Call the clinic or pharmacy before you go. Ask:
 - Do you have the vaccine?
 - Can you vaccinate a child at my child's age?
 - Are you in my health plan's network?
 - Do I need a prescription or provider order?
- ☐ Tell your care team about any upcoming needs, such as:
 - School or childcare entry
 - Camp
 - College
 - Travel
 - Starting or changing an arthritis medicine or treatment
 - Another health condition or major change in your child's health
- ☐ Check your insurance coverage.
 - Ask your insurance plan whether the vaccine and the clinic or pharmacy are covered and in-network.

What to Bring

- ☐ Current list of all medicines, vitamins and supplements your child takes
 - Include prescription and over-the-counter medicines and all arthritis medicines, especially medicines that affect the immune system.
- ☐ Your child's vaccine record
- ☐ Insurance card
- ☐ School, childcare or camp forms, if needed
- ☐ This checklist and your questions

Questions to Ask Your Child's Care Team

- ☐ Which vaccines are recommended for my child now? Are any overdue?
- ☐ Is this a live or non-live vaccine?
- ☐ Does my child's arthritis or other health condition(s) or medications affect whether or when they should get this vaccine?
- ☐ Can my child safely get this vaccine while taking their current arthritis medicine?
- ☐ Should the vaccine be given before starting an arthritis treatment or between doses?
- ☐ Should the timing of any medicine change?
- ☐ Does my child need any extra dose because of their health condition(s) or medicines?
- ☐ Are there vaccines my child should avoid right now?
- ☐ When should my child get the next vaccine or dose?

What About Vaccines for Family Members?

- ☐ Keeping siblings and other household members up to date on recommended vaccines can also help protect a child with juvenile arthritis.
- ☐ If your child has a weakened immune system and you have questions about a family member receiving a live vaccine, ask your child's care team whether any special precautions are needed.

Before You Leave the Appointment

- ☐ Ask for an updated vaccine record.
- ☐ Write down the date of the next dose, if needed.
- ☐ Ask what side effects to expect and when you should call your child's care team.
- ☐ Confirm when to give your child's next arthritis medicine dose.
- ☐ Keep copies of any school, childcare or medical exemption forms.

If Insurance Does Not Cover the Vaccine

- ☐ Ask for the reason in writing.
- ☐ Confirm the provider or pharmacy is in network.
- ☐ Ask whether another in-network provider can give your child the vaccine.
- ☐ Ask whether the denial is for:
 - The vaccine
 - The fee to give the vaccine
 - The location where it was given

Learn more:

American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Immunization Schedule

<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>

Arthritis Foundation Vaccine Access Frequently Asked Questions

arthritis.org/health-wellness/about-arthritis/related-conditions/other-diseases/vaccine-access-faqs

Arthritis Foundation Vaccinations for Kids on Biologic

arthritis.org/health-wellness/treatment/treatment-plan/ja-medical-decisions/vaccinations-for-kids-with-arthritis

