

FOR MORE INFORMATION

With the *Parents Guide* we have tried to give you the important facts about immunization in a relatively small package. So naturally we have not been able to include everything. The short section about immunity in the introduction is a simplified description of a much more complex process. Whole books have been written on topics we try to cover in a page or two. If you would like to learn more about childhood diseases and immunization, here are some places to look:

BOOKS

What Every Parent Should Know About Vaccines by Paul A. Offit, MD and Louis M. Bell, MD. MacMillan, USA, 1998. ISBN 0-02-862009-7. This is a good introduction to immunization that covers essentially the same topics this booklet does, but in much more detail. It also has chapters about vaccines needed for foreign travel, how vaccines work, how they are made, vaccine safety, and vaccines of the future.

Vaccinating Your Child: Questions & Answers for the Concerned Parent by Sharon G. Humiston, MD, and Cynthia Good. Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, 2000. ISBN 1-56145-177-0. Another good introduction to immunization for parents, containing sections on vaccine use, routine childhood vaccinations, and other vaccines. It answers many of the questions parents have about childhood vaccinations.

Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (The Pink Book) by William L. Atkinson, MD, et al. CDC publication (available online, or through the Public Health Foundation - see <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ed/epi&prev-materials.htm>). A comprehensive introduction to the principles of vaccination and the routine childhood vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases. Intended for doctors, nurses, and others who give vaccinations, but contains information of interest to parents.

The Immune System - How it Works by Lydia Woods Schindler. National Institutes of Health (NIH Publication # 96-3229) Revised December 1993, Reprinted April 1996. This is a colorful, 25-page booklet - written for a general audience, but still somewhat technical - describing the workings of the human immune system.

Understanding Vaccines. National Institutes of Health (NIH Publication # 98-4219) January 1998. This 35-page booklet covers the immune system, different types of vaccines, how vaccines are developed and tested, and how vaccines are evaluated.

Adverse Effects of Pertussis and Rubella Vaccines. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1991. ISBN 0-309-04499-5, and

Adverse Events Associated with Childhood Vaccines. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1994. ISBN 0-309-04895-8.

These two books, both prepared by the Institute of Medicine, summarize the results of numerous studies looking at the safety of childhood vaccines. They are written more for a scientific or medical audience, but contain detailed information about just how likely each vaccine is to cause specific side effects.

Your Child's Best Shot: A Parent's Guide to Vaccination. Canadian Paediatric Society, Ottawa, Ontario, 1997. ISBN 0-9695630-9-4. This book contains an informative and detailed chapter devoted to each childhood disease, plus sections on the immune system, special purpose and travel vaccines, and questions & answers.

Vaccines edited by Stanley A. Plotkin, MD and Walter A. Orenstein, MD. W.B. Saunders, USA, ISBN 0-7216-7443-7. This is a very important source of immunization information. It is written for health professionals, rather than for parents, and it can be rather technical, but it contains a wealth of information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.

TELEPHONE/FAX

Your State Health Department's Immunization Program. To find the number for your state, go to this internet address: <http://www.immunize.org/nslt.d/n18/coord18.htm> and look for the state immunization coordinator. (Thanks to the Immunization Action Coalition for maintaining this list.)

CDC's National Immunization Information Hotline. Talk with a trained operator who can answer individual questions about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases, Monday through Friday 8:00am through 11:00pm (EST). English: **1-800-232-2522**. Spanish: **1-800-232-0233**.

CDC's "Fax Back" System. Order information using a touch-tone phone and a fax machine. Call **1-888-232-3299**, and follow the prompts to the Immunization Directory. For information on International Travel (for instance, what vaccinations are needed to travel to specific countries), call **1-877-394-8747**. A directory will be faxed to you. Then call 1-888-232-3299 and enter the document number(s) of the material you would like to receive.

INTERNET

CDC's National Immunization Program

<http://cdc.gov/nip>

CDC's National Immunization Program site has information for both health care providers and the public on a variety of immunization issues, including an extensive section on vaccine safety.

Immunization Action Coalition

<http://www.immunize.org/index.htm>

This site is designed mainly for health care professionals, but it has lots of information, pamphlets and other print materials that can be ordered, questions and answers, and a gallery of pictures of people with vaccine-preventable diseases.

"A Miracle of Medicine" - Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

<http://www.vaccine.chop.edu>

This comprehensive, attractive, and informative site deals with all aspects of vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccination, including common safety concerns.

Unprotected People

<http://www.immunize.org/stories/unprot.htm>

Stories of people who suffered from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccination. Part of the Immunization Action Coalition's website.

National Network for Immunization Information

<http://www.immunizationinfo.org>

Up-to-date scientific information on vaccines, vaccination, and vaccine safety, including a useful section on how to evaluate information on the web.

National Vaccine Program Office

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/nvpo/main.htm>

Information about diseases, vaccines, and vaccine safety.

CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis>

Information about all types of hepatitis.

CDC Travel Information

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>

Contains information about what immunizations are needed for travel to foreign countries.

National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

<http://www.hrsa.gov/bhpr/vicp/>

Information about this federal program that provides compensation for people who may have been seriously injured by vaccines.

American Academy of Pediatrics.

<http://www.aap.org/new/immpublic.htm>

Downloadable videos, fact sheets, and other information about diseases and vaccines.

The World Health Organization's Pages on Vaccines and Immunization.

<http://www.who.int/vaccines/>

A global perspective on immunization.

Dr. Reddy's Pediatric Office on the Web: Infections & Immunizations

<http://www.drreddy.com/shots/>

A practicing pediatrician offers user-friendly information about immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases.

The following sites discuss some of the vaccine misconceptions and misinformation that can be found on the web and elsewhere:

<http://www.pathguy.com/antiimmu.htm>

<http://www.quackwatch.com/O3HealthPromotion/immu/immu00.html>

<http://www.skeptics.com.au/journal/anti-immune.htm>

<http://osms.otago.ac.nz/immunet/vaccine2.htm>