



Behind on vaccines?

Here's how to catch your child up safely

If your child has missed one or more vaccines—or hasn't received any yet—you're not alone. Families may be behind for many reasons, including illness, busy schedules, moving, or delayed care.

The good news is that children can catch up on vaccines safely at any age.



Is it safe to catch up on vaccines?

Yes. Catch-up vaccination is safe and common. Doctors use a standard catch-up schedule from the American Academy of Pediatrics that:

- Protects children as soon as possible
- Avoids extra doses
- Spaces vaccines in a safe way

Children don't need to start the vaccine schedule over, even if they have missed several doses.



What does "catching up" mean?

Catching up means getting the vaccines your child has missed, based on how old they are now. It can apply whether your child missed some vaccines or is starting vaccines later than usual.

For some children, this can mean:

- Getting more than one vaccine at a visit
- Getting vaccines over a few months instead of years

Your child's doctor will follow medical guidelines to decide which vaccines your child needs and when.

How do I talk with my child's doctor?

Catch-up vaccines are a routine part of pediatric care and are often discussed during a regular checkup. In some cases, your clinic may schedule a separate visit to review your child's vaccine record.

At the visit, your child's doctor can:

- Review which vaccines your child has missed
- Recommend which vaccines are needed and when
- Answer questions about safety and side effects

Ready to get started? Here's where you can go for support



Pediatricians you trust



Local health departments



Children's hospitals



Community health centers

