

Well-Child Visits Are Essential

[Español \(Spanish\)](#)



In recent months, families have been doing their part by staying at home as much as possible to help stop the spread of COVID-19. As communities open up, it's important your child goes in for their well-child visit. These **well-child visits are essential for many reasons**, including:

- Tracking growth and development including milestones, social behaviors, and learning
- Discussing any concerns about your child's health

- Getting scheduled vaccinations to prevent illnesses like measles and whooping cough (pertussis) and [12 other serious diseases](#)

Did you know that there were several outbreaks of measles and whooping cough in recent years? These diseases are extremely contagious and can be very serious, especially for babies and young children. As schools and daycares also begin to reopen, protecting children against these and other diseases makes these vaccinations particularly important.

Not sure what vaccines are needed when? Check out this [easy to read schedule](#). Concerned about keeping your child safe? Call your doctor's office to see what special measures they might have in place. Many offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time, like:

- Scheduling sick visits and well-child visits during different times of the day
- Asking patients to remain outside until they are called into the facility to reduce crowding in waiting rooms
- Offering sick visits and well-child visits in different locations

If you need help paying for vaccines, ask your child's doctor or nurse about the [Vaccines for Children program](#). This program provides free vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native.

These are challenging times, but **you have the power to help keep your child healthy**. Making sure that your child sees their doctor for well-child visits and vaccines is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and community.