

Priority Areas – Adult and Child Immunizations

Shots may hurt a little, but the diseases they can prevent are a lot worse—some are even life-threatening. Immunization shots, or vaccinations, are essential. They protect against things like measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, polio, [tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis](#) (whooping cough). Immunizations are important for adults as well as [children](#).

Your immune system helps your body fight germs by producing substances to combat them. When it does, the immune system "remembers" the germ and can fight it again. Vaccines contain germs that have been killed or weakened. When given to a healthy person, the vaccine triggers the immune system to respond and thus build immunity.



COVID-19 vaccines are an important tool to end the pandemic. Getty Images

Before vaccines, people became immune only by getting a disease and surviving it. Immunizations are an easier and less risky way to become immune.

Resources:

- The [CDC recommends](#) vaccines to prevent 17 diseases in infants, children, adolescents, or adults
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#) for you and your family
- Florida Department of Health [services and clinics](#)
- [Florida's Immunization Levels Florida Charts](#)
- [Rural Health Information Hub](#) - HPV vaccine disparities
- [ACIP Best Practices Recommendations](#)
- [CDC - Patient Education](#)