

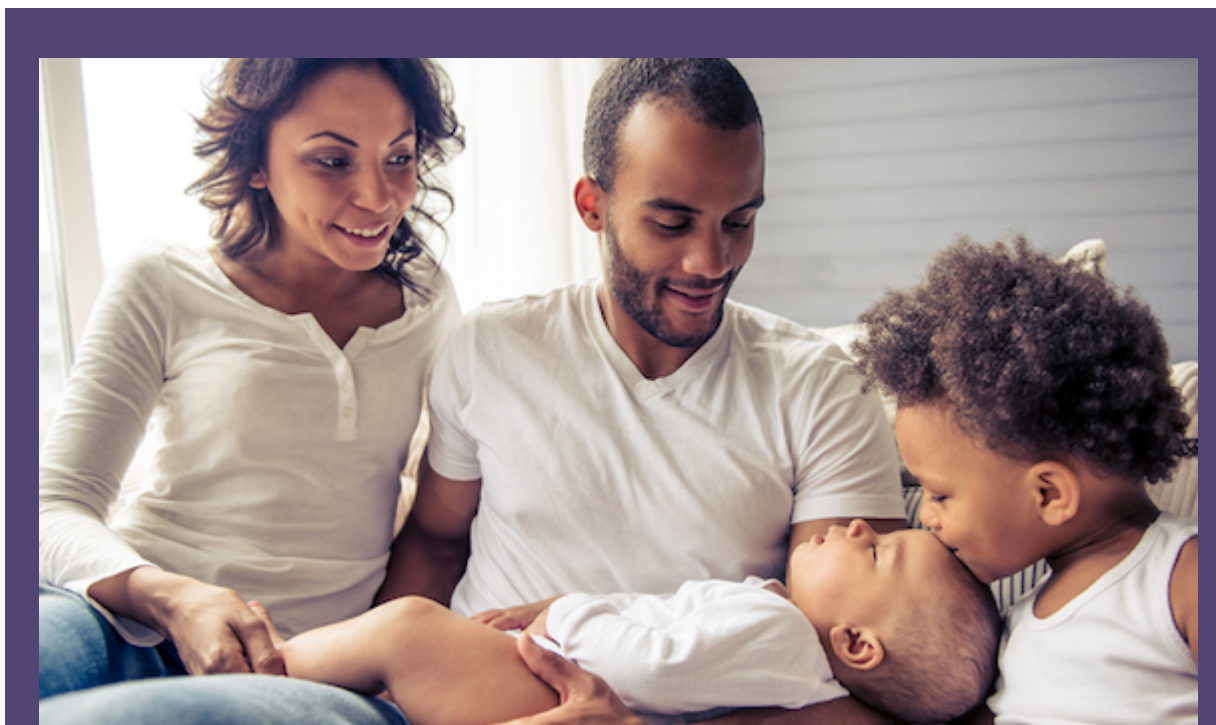
You and Your Baby



Is Your Child Overdue for a Visit or Vaccine?

Anxiety about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is understandable. But skipping or delaying well-child appointments and recommended vaccinations can be dangerous.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that missed vaccinations could lead to outbreaks of other potentially life-threatening illnesses, such as measles. It's also important that your child's doctor sees how your child is doing and addresses any questions or concerns *you* may have.



Child vaccination rates from birth to age 18 are way down since the U.S. declared COVID-19 a national emergency in March.

In Michigan, for example, the number of 5-month-old babies up to date with immunizations dropped from 68% in 2019 to just under 50% in May 2020.

Children need 10 major vaccinations from birth to age 3—plus additional ones through age 18—to build immunity to serious diseases:

- **Dangerous diseases, such as measles and whooping cough, have made a comeback in the past 2 years as many parents opted to skip these vaccines for their kids.**
- **Now, as social distancing and travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic ease up, children who've delayed or skipped the MMR vaccine (or others) this year are at risk if exposed to other unvaccinated people.**

Stay on Track

Healthcare providers are taking special precautions to keep you and your family safe during wellness visits (for vaccines and more). This includes scheduling well and sick visits at different times of the day.

Check the [recommended schedule for childhood vaccines](#). Call your child's healthcare provider to make sure your child is up to date.

This applies to you, too! Ask your own healthcare provider if *you* are due for an adult vaccine. If either of you are, don't wait. Schedule an appointment.

Sources: [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), 5/22/20; CDC study using data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, 2016–2020. [Clinical guidance](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics, as of 5/8/20.

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This message is not intended to provide individual medical advice about you or your child. Always seek the advice of a physician or other qualified healthcare provider with any questions you have about your health. Never disregard, avoid or delay contacting a doctor or other qualified professional because of something you have read in our emails, webpages or other electronic communications.

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