



VACCINES 101

UNDERSTANDING VACCINE PROTECTION

WHAT IS A VACCINE?

A vaccine is a preventative medicine (usually a shot) that builds warrior cells and teaches our body to fight germs. By strengthening our immunity, vaccines help prevent disease. Vaccines are also called “immunizations” or “shots”.

SAFETY

1. **Vaccines have been used safely for over 200 years**, and are our most powerful tools for disease prevention.
2. **All vaccines go through safety testing in labs.** Once safety is ensured, a clinical trial is done before the vaccine becomes available to the public. **Clinical trials gather real-world data** on how well a vaccine works to protect the body against disease.
3. **Once approved, vaccines are held to high safety standards** through regular monitoring and strict quality controls.
 - Each batch of vaccines made by a manufacturer is tested for quality and safety to ensure it works as intended.

Why vaccination matters

Vaccines help protect you and those around you against disease.

When most of the community gets vaccinated, it prevents outbreaks.

Following the recommended vaccine schedule helps everyone stay healthy, including young babies and elders.

Vaccines honor cultural tradition

Vaccines help preserve our community's strength, culture, and traditions.



Watch an animated short video

Staying up-to-date on shots is important at every age

Vaccination is the best way to decrease the spread of harmful and deadly diseases in our communities.

Be kind, don't get behind! Schedule your vaccinations now.



Additional Resources

Vaccines are available at IHS and Tribal Health facilities, local health clinics, and pharmacies.

For a visual summary of the recommended vaccine schedule:

bit.ly/vaxupschedule

