

How many vaccine injections will your child receive before age six? How many vaccines will these injections contain?

To clarify, there is a difference between the number of vaccines, also called antigens, and the number of injections. For example, a single DTP injection contains three vaccines, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. The following table reveals the number of injections and antigens the CDC recommends for a child by age six.

Vaccine (Single Injection)	Antigens (by name) (each Injection)	# of Antigens (each Injection)	# of Injections (in CDC schedule)	Total # of Antigens (Injections x Antigens)
Hep b	Hepatitis B	1	3	3
Rotavirus	5 strains (Oral)	5	3 (2)†	15 (10)†
DTaP	diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis	3	5	15
Hib	Hib + diphtheria carrier	2	4 (3)^	8 (6)^
Pevnar 13 (PCV)	pneumococcal 13 strains + diphtheria carrier	14	4	56
PPSV *	pneumococcal 23 strains (given to High Risk groups only)	23	1*	23 *
IPV	3 strains of polio	3	4	12
Influenza	3 strains of influenza	3	7	21
MMR	measles, mumps and rubella	3	2	6
Varicella	chicken pox (1 primary + 1 booster)	1	2	2
Hepatitis A	Hepatitis A	1	2	2
Meningococcal	4 strains (given to High Risk groups only)	4	2 *	8 *
	Totals * = High Risk children	Totals	Injections * Max. of 38 *	Antigens * As many as 171 * If in both HIGH RISK groups.
	Totals for Low Risk Children		34-36	133-140

† If Rotarix is administered at ages 2 and 4 months, a dose at 6 months is not indicated.

^ With certain combination vaccines the 6 month dose is not required.

* Denotes children in a high risk group. If your child is not in a high risk group, he/she will receive 34-36 injections.

Definitions:

Injection: A single shot that may contain vaccines for more than one disease. For ease of presentation, we are counting oral capsules and sprayed influenza vaccine as "shots."

Vaccine: A concoction of antigens and other toxic materials.

Antigen: Any substance that stimulates the production of antibodies. A wide variety of substances are antigens. These substances include viruses and even fragments of the protein covering of virus.

CDC Mandatory Vaccine Schedule Comparison	
Children birth to 6 years, by year (recommended month)	
USA 1983	USA 2007
DTP (2)	Influenza (prenatal)
OPV (2)	Hep B (birth)
DTP (4)	Hep B (1)
OPV (4)	DTaP (2)
DTP (6)	Hib (2)
MMR (15)	IPV (2)
DTP (18)	PCV (2)
OPV (18)	Rotavirus (2)
DTP (48)	Hep B (4)
OPV (48)	DTaP (4)
	Hib (4)
	IPV (4)
	PCV (4)
	Rotavirus (4)
	Hep B (6)
	DTaP (6)
	Hib (6)
	IPV (6)
	PCV (6)
	Influenza (6)
	Rotavirus (6)
	Hib (12)
	MMR (12)
	Varicella (12)
	PCV (12)
	Hep A (12)
	DTaP (15)
	Hep A (18)
	Influenza (18)
	Influenza (30)
	Influenza (42)
	MMR (48)
	DTaP (48)
	IPV (48)
	Influenza (54)
	Influenza (66)
10	36

The graphic to the left compares the number of vaccines recommended in 1983 versus the greatly enlarged number recommended in 2007.

In 1983 only 10 injections were recommended before age six. Those 10 injections contained 30 vaccines.

By 2007, the number of recommended injections had risen to 36 containing 121 vaccines.

The comparison of recommended vaccine schedules shown at the left was downloaded from www.whale.to/v/schedule.html

The current CDC recommended vaccine schedule may be downloaded here: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm

More information on the recommended vaccine schedules and a link to a print ready version of this flyer may be found at www.vaclib.org/intro/howmanyb4six2011.htm