

# Childhood Vaccines

## Caregiver Information

At Eisner Health, your baby's health is our top priority.



### What is the **rotavirus** vaccine, and who needs it?

The rotavirus vaccine protects against rotavirus disease.

- Rotavirus causes severe diarrhea, mostly in babies and young children. Vomiting and fever are also common. Children with rotavirus disease quickly become dehydrated, which can lead to hospitalization or even death.

The vaccine is not a shot but instead is given orally by putting drops in your child's mouth. Depending on the brand, your child either needs two or three doses of the rotavirus vaccine. The first dose must be given before 15 weeks (about 3 and a half months) old. The last dose is given by 8 months old.

### How does rotavirus disease spread?

The virus spreads when germs from poop get into our mouths. This usually happens when we or our child touch something that has these germs on it and then put our hands in our mouth or eat something with dirty hands.



The virus can also stick around on things like water, food or objects, so if we touch or eat those things, we can get sick too. It is important to wash our hands and our child's hands regularly and be careful about what we touch and eat.

**Does I don't know anybody who has had rotavirus disease. Does my baby need this vaccine?**

**YES**

- Rotavirus infections are common in children ages 3 to 35 months (about 3 years) — particularly those who spend time in childcare settings.
- It's possible to be infected with rotavirus more than once, even if you've been vaccinated. However, repeat infections are typically less severe.
- The virus can remain infectious on surfaces that haven't been disinfected for weeks or months

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The reason you don't hear a lot about rotavirus is because so many children are vaccinated against the disease. While many diseases have virtually disappeared in the United States because of vaccination, they are common in other parts of the world. If we stop vaccinating against these diseases, they can reemerge.

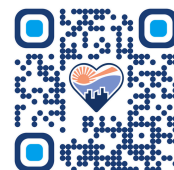
## Receiving vaccines is an important part of a child's health.

Vaccines give your child the antibodies they need to fight off serious diseases. As a parent or caregiver, we want you to feel confident about making the choice to protect your child.

**Please talk with your provider if you have any questions about vaccinations.**



Scan here to access the complete Vaccine Information Statement from the CDC. Available in Spanish and other languages at [immunize.org/vis](https://immunize.org/vis).



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