

The devastating impact of delayed vaccinations



- Late vaccination can be associated with a **reduced chance of survival** in cases of disease exposure.¹
- Delayed vaccinations put a child at **significant risk of not receiving all the recommended vaccine doses.**⁴

The implication of untimely vaccination is that children with incomplete or delayed vaccination, are at unnecessary risk of VPDs, and may potentially become the vehicles for epidemics.^{2,5}



VACCINATE. You have the power to change their future!'



References: 1. Poorolajal J, Khazaei S, Kousehlou Z, et al. Delayed Vaccination and Related Predictors among Infants. *Iranian Journal of Public Health* 2012;41(10):65-71. 2. Hu Y, Li Q, Chen Y. Timeliness of Childhood Primary Immunization and Risk Factors Related with Delays: Evidence from the 2014 Zhejiang Provincial Vaccination Coverage Survey. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2017;14:1-13. 3. Kiely M, Boulianne N, Talbot D, et al. Impact of vaccine delays at the 2, 4, 6 and 12 month visits on incomplete vaccination status by 24 months of age in Quebec, Canada. *BMC Public Health*. 2018;18:1364-1378. 4. Smith PJ, Humiston SG, Parnell T, et al. The Association Between Intentional Delay of Vaccine Administration and Timely Childhood Vaccination Coverage. *Intentional Vaccine Delay and Childhood Vaccination Coverage*. *Public Health Reports* 2010;125:534-541. 5. World Health Organization. New measles surveillance data for 2019. Available from: <https://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/measles-data-2019/en/>. Last accessed July 2019.

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Reasons why not to delay your baby/child's vaccinations...

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IMPACT OF DELAYED VACCINATIONS

Vaccine-preventable diseases

Complete and timely vaccination

is necessary to achieve effective control of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs).^{1,2}

- **Complete or 'full' vaccination coverage** during infancy is essential to prevent life-threatening childhood infections.^{1,2}
- Delivering vaccines at **the right time, and at the right age** is also essential to protect infants and children at the age they are most vulnerable.^{1,2}

Why is timing so important?

A timely start to vaccination, in the first year of life, is especially important as maternal antibodies rapidly decline.² **It is necessary to vaccinate at the recommended ages and not delay or 'spread out' vaccines**, as these are the ages that have the highest risk for specific infections and for which vaccines have been tested and proven.²



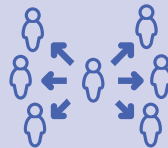
Understanding the risks of delayed vaccination

Delayed vaccinations increase the child's risk of susceptibility to preventable infections that may be life-threatening at an early age.^{2,3,4}

Delayed vaccinations:



Put an infant or child at a **longer period of risk** between the loss of maternal antibodies and protection from vaccine-induced immunity.²



Negatively affect the **herd immunity** in the community, which means spreading of disease is made easier.²



Contribute to the **outbreaks and epidemics** of vaccine-preventable diseases.²

Did you know?

Delayed vaccinations are defined as a delay of **30+ days** after the recommended age for each dose?³

Some parents may delay vaccinations due to:

- A fear of the side effects of vaccines⁴
- A preference to 'spread-out' injections so that not as many are administered at one time⁴
- Difficulty getting children to vaccination clinics because of transport or illness⁴

"Ripple" effect:

A vaccine delay at one visit impacts subsequent doses, resulting in

60 - 70 % of children, not completing their full set of vaccinations within the recommended time.

This puts children at risk of infections that are preventable.^{4,5}

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