

How to respond to common questions your child may ask:

YOUR CHILD MAY ASK...

What are vaccines and why do I need to get them?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN TELL THEM...

Vaccines train your body to fight off diseases, without a risk of getting sick. Vaccines show your immune system a harmless part of the disease called “antigens”. Once your immune system sees the antigens, they create defense cells called “antibodies” which get stored in your body. If you ever come into contact with the germs that cause the diseases, your immune system will know how to fight them off to prevent you from getting sick.

How to respond to common questions your child may ask:

YOUR CHILD MAY ASK...

How does the school vaccine program work?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN TELL THEM...

On the day of the vaccine clinic, public health nurses will come to your school and set up a clean, safe room to give students their vaccines. I am going to fill out a permission form that tells the school you will be getting the vaccine that day. Your teacher will make sure you get to the vaccine appointment when you're at school.

How to respond to common questions your child may ask:

YOUR CHILD MAY ASK...

Why do I need to get the vaccine at school?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN TELL THEM...

School vaccine programs are designed to make it easy for all of the kids in your grade to get protected from the same group of diseases. Since the public health nurses come during the school day, it means that we don't have to take time out of our evenings or weekends to go to a vaccine appointment.

How to respond to common questions your child may ask:

YOUR CHILD MAY ASK...

What diseases are the school-based vaccines for?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN TELL THEM...

- The HPV vaccine protects against a virus that can cause cancer.
- The Hepatitis B vaccine protects against a virus which causes an infection in the liver.
- The MenC-ACYW vaccine protects against meningococcal disease, which can cause an infection in your bloodstream, brain and spinal cord.
- The TDap vaccine protects you from three serious illnesses called:
 - Diphtheria: a nose and throat infection
 - Tetanus: an infection of the nervous system
 - Pertussis: a lung and airway infection

How to respond to common questions your child may ask:

YOUR CHILD MAY ASK...

Will the vaccines make me feel sick?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN TELL THEM...

Each vaccine can have different side effects. It's normal to feel some sickness after you get the vaccine, but a nurse will be at the school to make sure you're okay. Most side effects are mild – such as a sore arm or mild fever – and will go away within a few days. I can give you medicine for pain and fever if you need it!

How to respond to common questions your child may ask:

YOUR CHILD MAY ASK...

Will my friends be getting the vaccine at school too?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN TELL THEM...

Many of your classmates will be getting the same vaccines as you on the same days at school. Some students may have decided to get the vaccines at local public health offices, or in their family doctor's office instead. All of your friends' parents will decide on the option that works best for them.