



## Your child's doctor shares your goal – a healthy future for your family.

Doctors recommend vaccines because they protect your child from preventable and serious diseases, like diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Serious side effects from vaccines are extremely rare. Millions of children are safely vaccinated each year.

These diseases may seem like something from the past, but they still exist and can be life threatening.

**Diphtheria** can block the airways, making it hard to breathe, and can cause heart failure and even death.

**Tetanus** can cause painful muscle spasms, lockjaw and heart problems. It can also lead to death.

**Pertussis (whooping cough)** can cause breathing problems and death. One in 3 children with pertussis need hospital care.

### **DTaP Vaccine** (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)

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The DTaP and Tdap vaccines protect against these diseases. Before the vaccine:

- Diphtheria was one of the most common causes of death in school-aged children
- Whooping cough caused 8,000 infant deaths each year in the U.S.

**Don't let diseases of the past become part of your child's future.**

Have questions? Get real answers.  
Talk to your child's doctor today.

[VaccinesForKids.nc.gov](https://www.vaccinesforkids.nc.gov)



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