

# Vaccines protect what matters most – the health of your children, family and community.

Children's immune systems are built to handle the thousands of everyday germs they encounter. But some germs are different. They are dangerous and can cause serious harm. Vaccines teach children's immune systems how to fight dangerous germs without the risk of serious illness.

Compared to what children's immune systems handle daily, the exposure from a vaccine is very small. Serious side effects from vaccines are extremely rare. Millions of children are safely vaccinated each year.



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

### DTaP Vaccine

(Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)

Protects against three serious diseases, including whooping cough (pertussis).

**Before the vaccine**, 8,000 infants died from whooping cough each year. One in three infants who get whooping cough need hospital care.

### Hib Vaccine

(*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)

Protects against an infection that can cause brain damage and deafness.

**Before the vaccine**, it caused brain infections in 15,000 children every year.

### Pneumococcal Vaccine

(PCV)

Protects against a bacteria that can cause infections in the brain, lungs and blood.

**Before the vaccine**, it caused 700 brain infections, 17,000 blood infections, 5 million ear infections and 200 deaths in children every year.

For diseases like whooping cough, 92% to 94% of people in your area must be vaccinated to protect those who cannot get the vaccine. Keep your child up to date to help protect your whole community.

Vaccines your children need are available at their doctor's office, tribal clinics and community health centers. Children who are American Indian or Alaskan Native are also eligible to get free vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

**Your child's doctor shares your goal: a healthy future for your family. Have questions? Get real answers. Talk to your child's doctor today. [VaccinesForKids.nc.gov](https://www.vaccinesforkids.nc.gov).**

