

Polio is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the poliovirus. The virus can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis (unable to move parts of the body). The paralysis can be lifelong, and it can be deadly. Getting your child fully vaccinated is the best way to protect against polio.

Do people still get polio in the United States?

- Thanks to a successful vaccination program, most people in the United States are protected from polio. However, people who are not vaccinated or who haven't received all recommended doses may be at risk of getting polio.
- In 2022, the first U.S. polio case in nearly a decade was reported in New York state. The patient was an unvaccinated young adult who developed paralysis from the polio infection.

Why should my child get the polio vaccine?

- Protects your child from polio, a potentially serious and life-threatening disease.
- Protects your child from developing lifelong paralysis from polio.

What are the side effects?

- The polio vaccine is very safe and is effective at preventing polio. Vaccines like any medicine can have side effects. These are usually mild and go away on their own.
- The most common side effect is a sore spot with redness, swelling or pain where the shot is given.

Routine childhood polio immunization schedule

- CDC recommends children receive one dose of this four-dose primary series at the following ages:
 - 2 months
 - 4 months
 - 6 through 18 months
 - 4 through 6 years

Talk to your doctor today to make sure your child is up to date on their childhood immunizations. Want to learn more? Visit the CDC Website: [cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/polio.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/polio.html)