

## August is National Immunization Awareness Month

### Take Your Shot and Lower Your Risk

August marks **National Immunization Awareness Month**, highlighting the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Every year **thousands of adults** in the U.S. become seriously ill and are hospitalized because of diseases that vaccines can help prevent. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many children fell behind on receiving routine vaccinations; the CDC's public sector vaccine ordering data show a **14% drop** in 2020-2021 compared to 2019. With back-to-school just around the corner, now is the perfect time to schedule wellness visits for your family to ensure everyone is caught up on recommended immunizations. In addition to **lowering your chance** of getting certain diseases, there are other reasons to get vaccinated.

### REASONS TO GET VACCINATED



#### **Vaccination can mean the difference between life and death.**

Vaccine-preventable infections can be deadly. Every year in the U.S., prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 50,000 adults died from vaccine-preventable diseases.



#### **When you get sick, your family may be at risk, too.**

Adults are the most common source of pertussis (whooping cough) infection in infants which can be deadly for babies. When you get vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and your family as well as those in your community who may not be able to be vaccinated.



#### **Vaccines will not cause the diseases they are designed to prevent.**

Vaccines contain either killed or weakened viruses, making it impossible to get the disease from the vaccine.



#### **Vaccines are safe.**

The U.S. has a robust approval process to ensure that all licensed vaccines are safe. Potential side effects associated with vaccines are uncommon and much less severe than the diseases they prevent.



#### **Young and healthy people can get very sick, too.**

Infants and older adults are at increased risk for serious infections and complications, but vaccine-preventable diseases can strike anyone. If you are young and healthy, getting vaccinated can help you stay that way.



#### **Vaccine-preventable diseases have not gone away.**

The viruses and bacteria that cause illness and death still exist and can be passed on to those who are not protected by vaccines.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases