



**Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series**  
**2025 APR CCSS: Cultivating the Wellbeing of our Military Children, Youth and Families**

**2025 APR CCSS S05: Safeguarding the Future: Pediatric Vaccination in the Military Health System**

**Resource List**

The [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\) Program](#) (2024) is a federally funded initiative that provides all vaccines included in the pediatric immunization schedules that are determined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices at no cost. The vaccines offered through the VFC Program are for children 18 years or younger who meet program-specific requirements. Vaccines are provided at any private doctor, clinic, hospital, school, or pharmacy that is an enrolled VFC Program provider. Although there is no charge for VFC Program vaccines, healthcare providers can charge an administration fee. An administration fee is similar to a patient's co-pay in that it helps providers offset their costs of doing business. Providers have the option to charge what they feel is fair, which could range from no charge at all, up to the maximum amount allowed by their state.

The [Immunizations – Healthychildren.org](#) (2025) webpage emphasizes the critical role vaccines play in safeguarding children's health. It highlights that immunizations have significantly reduced the prevalence of serious childhood infections, leading to healthier lives. The page provides access to the most current immunization schedules and explains the rationale behind the timing and spacing of vaccines to optimize their effectiveness. There is also a list of evidence-based articles that address specific vaccine concerns according to age group. A six-part video series is available as a resource for new parents to help them understand the importance of vaccinations, including the diseases they help protect against and the potential consequences of not following the schedule.

Parent's opinions about vaccines are influenced by a multitude of factors that need to be acknowledged and understood by providers. [Vaccine Hesitancy in Pediatrics](#) (2022) examines the issues of vaccine hesitancy among parents, ranging from cautious acceptance to outright refusal of vaccinations. The article identifies several key factors that influence parental decision-making, including knowledge and information sources, risk perception, trust, and personal experiences. The authors recommend that healthcare providers engage in non-confrontational and open discussions with parents to build trust and strong relationships that provide a foundational strategy for promoting vaccine acceptance.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) [Vaccines for Children: A Guide to Parents and Caregivers](#) (2024) emphasizes the crucial role vaccines play in preventing childhood infectious diseases. Vaccines undergo a rigorous evaluation by the FDA to ensure their safety and efficacy. While vaccines are generally safe, they can occasionally cause mild side effects, such as soreness at the injection site or a low-grade fever. Severe adverse reactions are rare, and the protective benefits of vaccination far outweigh these potential risks. The guide outlines several vaccines routinely recommended for children and includes steps to ensure a smooth vaccination experience. Recommendations include discussing any health concerns or previous adverse reactions with your child's healthcare provider prior to the appointment, comforting your child to help reduce anxiety during the vaccine administration, and monitoring for any side effects after the vaccine. Parents should consult their healthcare providers if any unusual reactions are noted.



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### References

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Healthychildren.org. (2025). *Immunizations – Healthychildren.org.* American Academy of Pediatrics.

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69(1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yapd.2022.03.011>

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