

what if...

**What if you don't
immunize your child?**

**California law allows
exemptions to required
immunizations.**

**Unsure parents should
still consider the impact
of not immunizing their
children.**



● **Without
immunizations your
child is at risk for
some serious diseases.**

Children are vulnerable to dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. Immunizations (or “vaccines,” “boosters,” or “shots”) can protect your child from these diseases.

Immunizations are safe and effective, and the threat of these diseases is real – even in California.

- **Pertussis** (“whooping cough”) causes coughing attacks that make it hard to breathe. In 2010, over 7,000 California children got pertussis, 570 were hospitalized, and 10 babies died!

Pertussis outbreaks mostly involve babies too young to be fully immunized or people who need a booster shot.

- **Influenza** is not just a cold. During a recent California flu season, 99 children had to go to the hospital for flu and its complications – 14 of them died.

- **Measles** outbreaks still happen all over the world.

In 2008, an unvaccinated San Diego boy caught measles while visiting Europe. When he returned, hundreds of San Diego children were exposed to measles.

As a result, about 70 other unvaccinated or too-young-to-be-vaccinated children had to be quarantined at home (some for 21 days).

● **Without immunizations
your child can infect
others.**

Unvaccinated children can spread vaccine-preventable diseases in their community. These children can infect:

- Babies who are too young to be fully immunized.
- Children and adults who can't be immunized for medical reasons, like cancer treatments.
- A small percentage of vaccinated children who don't develop full immunity.

then...

- **Your child will be at great risk of catching the disease**
- **Your child can infect others**
- **Your child at times may be kept out of school or child care**

- **Without immunizations your child may be excluded from school or child care at times.**

During disease outbreaks, unimmunized children may be kept out of school or child care until the outbreak is over – for their own protection and for the protection of others. This often causes hardship for the child and parent.

what if...?

As a parent, it is your choice. We strongly encourage you to choose immunizations for your child.

Please discuss any concerns you have with a trusted doctor or nurse. Your decision affects not only the health of your child, but also your child's classmates, their families, and your community.

www.GetImmunizedCA.org

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