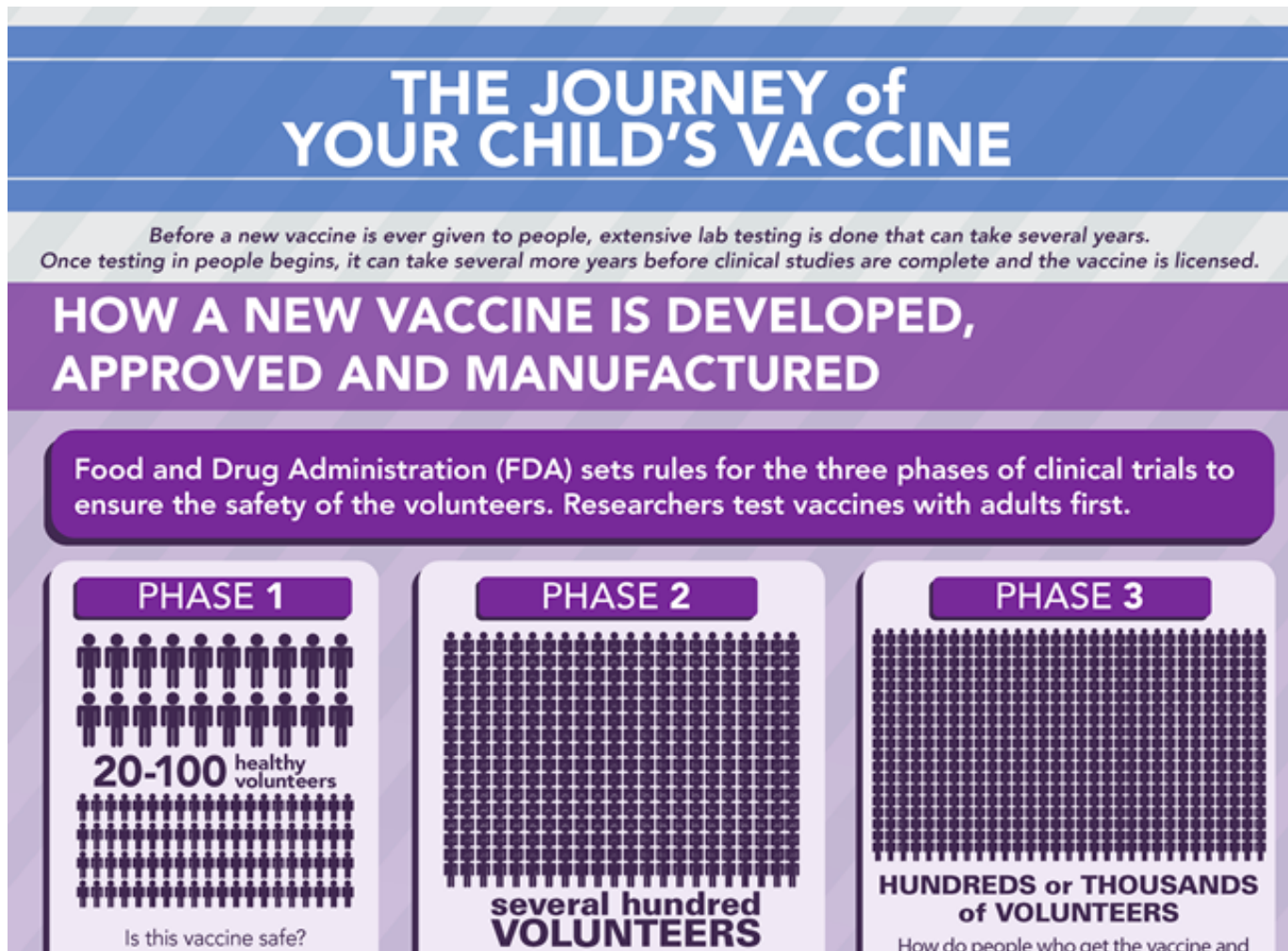


## For Parents: Vaccines for Your Children



# The Journey of Your Child's Vaccine

- [Read Text Equivalent](#) (for Section 508 access)


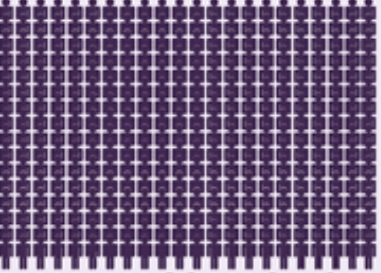
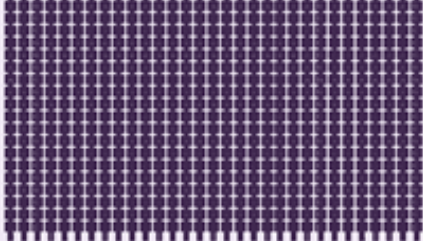


## THE JOURNEY of YOUR CHILD'S VACCINE

*Before a new vaccine is ever given to people, extensive lab testing is done that can take several years. Once testing in people begins, it can take several more years before clinical studies are complete and the vaccine is licensed.*

### HOW A NEW VACCINE IS DEVELOPED, APPROVED AND MANUFACTURED

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets rules for the three phases of clinical trials to ensure the safety of the volunteers. Researchers test vaccines with adults first.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
 20-100 healthy volunteers	 several hundred VOLUNTEERS	 HUNDREDS or THOUSANDS of VOLUNTEERS
Is this vaccine safe?		How do people who get the vaccine and

Does this vaccine seem to work?  
Are there any serious side effects?  
How is the size of the dose related to side effects?

What are the most common short-term side effects?  
How are the volunteers' immune systems responding to the vaccine?

people who do not get the vaccine compare?  
Is the vaccine safe?  
Is the vaccine effective?  
What are the most common side effects?

**FDA licenses the vaccine only if:**

- It's safe and effective
- Benefits outweigh risks



Vaccines are made in batches called lots.



Manufacturers must test all lots to make sure they are safe, pure and potent. The lots can only be released once FDA reviews their safety and quality.



The FDA inspects manufacturing facilities regularly to ensure quality and safety.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTP://WWW.FDA.GOV/CBER](http://www.fda.gov/cber)

*If the FDA licenses a vaccine, experts may consider adding it to the recommended immunization schedule.*

## HOW A VACCINE IS ADDED TO THE U.S. RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a group of medical and public health experts. Members of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) are among some of the groups that also bring related immunization expertise to the committee. This group carefully reviews all available data about the vaccine from clinical trials and other studies to develop recommendations for vaccine use.

**When making recommendations, ACIP considers:**



How safe is the vaccine when given at specific ages?  
How well does the vaccine work at specific ages?  
How serious is the disease this vaccine prevents?  
How many children would get the disease the vaccine prevents if we didn't have the vaccine?

ACIP recommendations are not official until the CDC Director reviews and approves them and they are published. These recommendations then become part of the United States official childhood immunization schedule.

New vaccine to protect your child against a disease is added to the schedule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINES](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)

After being added to the U.S. Recommended Immunization Schedule, health experts continue to monitor the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

## HOW A VACCINE'S SAFETY CONTINUES TO BE MONITORED

FDA and CDC closely monitor vaccine safety after the public begins using the vaccine.

The purpose of monitoring is to watch for adverse events (possible side effects).



Monitoring a vaccine after it is licensed helps ensure that possible risks associated with the vaccine are identified.

### VACCINE ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING SYSTEM

VAERS collects and analyzes reports of adverse events that happen after vaccination. Anyone can submit a report, including parents, patients and healthcare professionals.

### VACCINE SAFETY DATALINK



Network of healthcare organizations across the U.S.



Healthcare information available for a population of over **9 million** people.

Scientists use VSD to conduct studies to evaluate the safety of vaccines and determine if possible side effects are actually associated with vaccination.

Vaccine recommendations may change if safety monitoring shows that the vaccine risks outweigh the benefits (like if scientists detect a new serious side effect).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINESAFETY](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety)

The United States currently has the safest vaccine supply in its history. These vaccines keep children, families and communities protected from serious diseases.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

## Read Text Equivalent

**Note:** CDC currently has no printed copies of this infographic. However, if you would like to print this infographic commercially, you can request a press-ready file. The infographic is 11” x 34;” this is the minimum size we recommend for printing to ensure that all text can easily be read. Please note that this infographic should not be printed on an 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper. For more information, send an [e-mail request](#).

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