



FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

Your Well-being, Our Priority.

Don't infants have natural immunity from their mothers? And isn't natural immunity better than immunity from vaccines?

Natural immunity occurs when a person is exposed to a disease, becomes infected and survives the infection. **While it is true that natural immunity usually results in better immunity than vaccination, the risks to your child are much greater.** Vaccines help develop immunity by imitating an infection, but this “imitation” does not cause illness. For example, a natural chickenpox infection may result in pneumonia or another serious complication, whereas the chickenpox vaccine might only cause your child to have a sore arm for a couple of days. Measles, meningococcal disease (meningitis), polio and many other vaccine-preventable diseases can kill your child, or leave him seriously debilitated for life.

Watch the following video of VYF Board Member Dr. Paul Offit as he explains why natural immunity can come at a serious price.

Even though your baby may get some immunity from you during the last few weeks of pregnancy, it is not long lasting. Your baby needs the long-term protection that can only come from making sure he receives all of his or her vaccines according to the [CDC's recommended childhood immunization schedule](#).

Even if you are breastfeeding your baby, he or she still needs to be protected with vaccines at the [recommended ages](#). While breast milk provides important protection from some infections (colds, ear infections and diarrhea) as your baby's immune system is developing, breast milk does not protect him or her against all diseases.

Do I have to vaccinate my baby if I'm breastfeeding him?

Yes, even breastfed babies need to be protected with vaccines at the recommended ages. While breast milk provides important protection from some infections (such as colds, ear infections and diarrhea) as your baby's immune system is developing, breast milk does not protect him or her against all diseases. Even if your

baby is being breastfed, she needs the long-term protection that can only come from making sure she receives all of her vaccines according to the [CDC's recommended childhood immunization schedule](#).

SOURCE - <https://www.vaccinateyourfamily.org/questions-aboutvaccines/understanding-vaccine-science/>