

# The 411 on Vaccinations in Idaho

## Immunization 101

**A**



### WHY IMMUNIZE?

Nothing protects children better from 14 serious childhood diseases.

- ✓ Most Idaho parents choose immunization (only 7.1% of Idaho Kindergartners have an exemption on file).
- ✓ It's the powerful defense that's safe, proven, and effective.

**B**



### VACCINATION HELPS TO PROTECT ALL IDAHOANS

By vaccinating, you are helping to protect yourself and others from harmful diseases.

- ✓ This includes those with weakened immune systems – like people with certain illnesses such as cancer, people who for medical reasons cannot get certain vaccines, or babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated.
- ✓ Vaccinating as much of the community as possible helps prevent the spread of disease and can slow or stop an outbreak.

**C**



### VACCINES ARE SAFE

Before a vaccine is approved and given to children, it is tested extensively.

- ✓ Scientists and medical professionals carefully evaluate all of the available information about each vaccine to determine its safety and effectiveness.
- ✓ Serious side effects from vaccines are very rare.
- ✓ Vaccines undergo continued evaluation, even after Food and Drug Administration approval.

## Idaho's Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS)



IRIS is a secure statewide immunization information system which clinics use to manage vaccines, forecast, and help remind patients when immunizations are needed.



IRIS provides patients and providers with a consolidated immunization record at the point of care – which saves providers time and helps ensure necessary vaccines are administered.



Any Idahoan not interested in participating in IRIS can opt out of the system at anytime.

## Benefits of Vaccinating Idaho Children

The Idaho Immunization Coalition estimates\* that the vaccination of Idaho children born over the last 20 years:

Helped avoid over  
**4,500**  
deaths

Prevented  
approximately  
**2 million**  
illnesses

Saved nearly  
**\$1.9 billion**  
in direct health care  
related costs

\* The estimate is based on Idaho's population in relation to the United States total population (2017 US Census data estimates) and updated 2017 analysis using methods from "Benefits from Immunization during the Vaccines for Children Program Era – United States, 1994-2013."