



PEDIATRIC
INFECTIOUS
DISEASES
SOCIETY

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Specialists in Pediatric Infectious Diseases Urge Childhood Vaccination, Including Against COVID-19

We are specialists in the care of children with infectious diseases, including vaccine-preventable diseases. We have seen the devastating and sometimes fatal consequences of pneumonia, bloodstream infections, meningitis, infectious diarrhea, and most recently, COVID-19, in our patients.

Fortunately, we have also witnessed the tremendous positive impact that vaccines have had on the health of children. Vaccination has eliminated or dramatically reduced infectious diseases such as measles, mumps, polio, and bacterial meningitis. When immunization rates are high in a community, children who are vaccinated are protected. Children too young to be immunized or those with weak immune systems are also protected through herd immunity.

Many members of our society, including our founding members, have devoted their careers to developing and studying vaccines. Therefore, we have confidence in the safety of vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccines, and recommend they be given to children based on the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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*The **Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)** membership encompasses leaders across the global scientific and public health spectrum, including clinical care, advocacy, academics, government, and the pharmaceutical industry. From fellowship training to continuing medical education, research, regulatory issues and guideline development, PIDS members are the core professionals advocating for the improved health of children with infectious diseases both nationally and around the world, participating in critical public health and medical professional advisory committees that determine the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases, immunization practices in children, and the education of pediatricians. For more information, visit <http://www.pids.org>.*