



Stand Together to Protect Us All Get Immunized

Jaxon's Story

My son Jaxon got measles when he was 7 months old, too young to get immunized. He got better, but five years later he started having seizures. He lost the ability to swallow, speak, and walk. After suffering greatly, Jaxon died a few years later. His condition was caused by the measles virus. We learned that, even though there is an effective vaccine, measles is still a leading cause of death among young children worldwide. And in our community, parents are not fully immunizing their children, which puts them at risk to get and spread measles and other terrible diseases. I hope my story can help prevent another child from experiencing what my son went through.



*- Paula Abalahin, Jaxon's mom
Port Orchard, WA*

What is Community Immunity?

Community (or herd) immunity helps slow down and stop the spread of disease among people. Community immunity only works when most people in the community have immunity to the disease. People become immune by getting vaccinated or by having had the disease. For some diseases, like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles, at least 9 out of 10 of us must have immunity to keep the diseases from spreading.

Community immunity protects us all.

Who Depends on Community Immunity?

We all do, but especially those who can't fight diseases or are not immune. When you choose to immunize yourself and your family, you also help protect others at risk, like:

- Infants and the elderly who cannot get vaccines because they are too young or too old.
- People with weak immune systems, like those with heart disease or cancer.
- People who are not fully immunized.

Does My Community Have Immunity?

Ask your child care, preschool, or school about their immunization rates.

Immunize your child on time. Make sure you and your child's caregivers get immunized too.

Speak up and tell others that your child is fully immunized. Make sure your friends and neighbors know about the risks of not immunizing and the benefits of community immunity.

Learn more:

- How community immunity works:
www.vaccines.gov/basics/protection/index.html
- Reliable vaccine sources:
www.vaccineinformation.org/trusted-sources
- Immunization info and more:
www.withinreachwa.org/immunizations

To find an immunization clinic near you, contact:

 WithinReach

WithinReach Family Health Hotline
1-800-322-2588 (711 TTY relay)
or **www.ParentHelp123.org**

Protect your child. Protect your community.
Vaccinate.



Partially funded by Jaxon's Cure Foundation. If you have a disability and need this document in another format, please call 1-800-322-2588 (711--TTY relay).