



Did you know?

Before vaccines were available:

- Polio paralyzed 10,000 children every year.
- Rubella (German measles) caused birth defects and mental retardation in as many as 20,000 newborns every year.
- Measles infected about 4 million children, killing 3,000 every year.
- Diphtheria was one of the most common causes of death in school-aged children every year.
- A bacterium called *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) caused meningitis in 15,000 children, leaving many with permanent brain damage every year.
- Pertussis (whooping cough) killed thousands of infants every year.

Vaccines are the best defense we have in preventing once common childhood illnesses. In fact, they have been so effective in reducing and eradicating these diseases that some have questioned the necessity of their continued use. When immunization coverage rates in schools and communities drops the possibility of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks increases.

Because vaccine preventable diseases still exist in many countries and international travel is a common practice the choice to not vaccinate increases the risk of infection for you and your child.

For more information about immunizations please contact the Gregg County Health Department Immunization Division at 903-237-2605 or 903-237-2604.