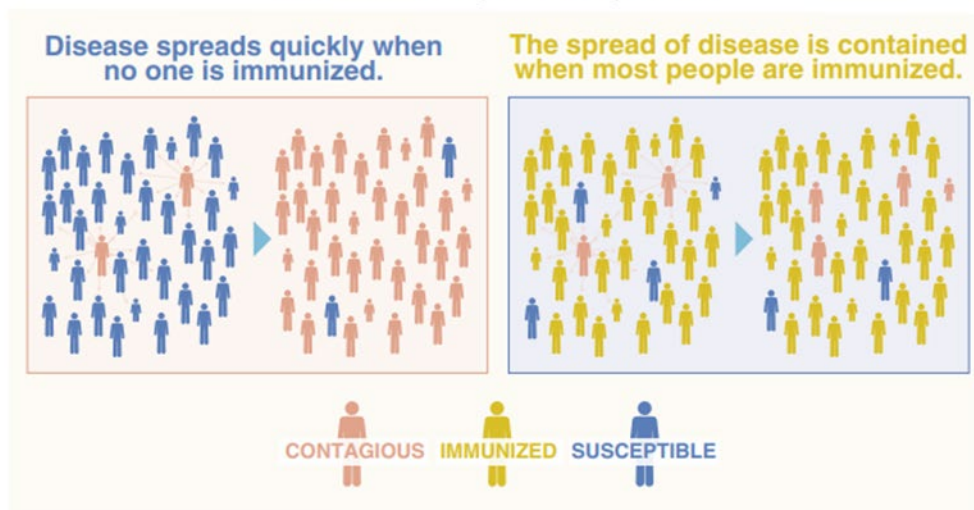


Visual Graphics that Providers Can Use to Help Explain More Complex Information

Community Immunity (Herd Immunity)


- The more people in a community who are vaccinated, the harder it is for a disease to spread and the chance of an outbreak greatly decreases. This type of protection is known as community (or herd) immunity.³²
- Immunization rates need to be high for community immunity to work. Depending on several factors, vaccination levels must reach 75% or greater to achieve community immunity.⁴⁹


How community immunity works





- Community immunity protects the most vulnerable among us, including infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated and people who cannot get certain vaccines for medical reasons, such as a child receiving treatment for cancer.³²
- Community immunity does not guarantee protection for unvaccinated individuals.
 - Vaccination rates need to be high for community immunity to work. For example, measles requires an immunization rate of at least 95% to achieve community immunity.²⁸
 - It may not be possible to avoid exposure to a vaccine-preventable disease. For example, an unvaccinated person can catch measles if they spend any length of time in a room where a person infected with measles has been, up to two hours after the infected person has left the room.
 - Community immunity does not protect against all vaccine-preventable diseases. For example, tetanus bacteria can be found in dirt, dust, and soil and does not spread from person to person. Any unimmunized person is at risk of getting tetanus as they are not protected by community immunity.


Six reasons to follow the recommended schedule


- 

The schedule is safe, effective, and based on science.
- 


It is designed to protect children early in life before they are exposed to dangerous diseases.
- 

Delaying vaccines leaves children unprotected when they are most at risk for serious disease complications.
- 

Protection provided by maternal antibodies and breastfeeding is not enough.
- 

Following the schedule minimizes the number of clinic visits and periods of discomfort, and may reduce the child's risk of developing needle fears.
- 

When a child gets vaccinated on time, it protects not only the child, but their friends, family, and community too.



Think of the vaccines your baby receives as just a drop in the ocean compared to what your baby's immune system encounters every day.