

Treat your child well

You know to take your child to the primary care provider (PCP) when he or she is sick. To make sure your child is growing properly, it's just as important to take your child to the PCP when he or she is well. This is called a well-child checkup.

What is a well-child checkup?

During a well-child checkup, the PCP:

- Does a complete physical exam
- Checks your child's development and nutrition
- Checks your child's vision, hearing and teeth
- Gives shots (immunizations) as needed
- Orders lab work (e.g., blood lead test) as needed
- Gives you health information about your child
- Finds health problems before they become serious
- Gets to know your child so when your child is sick, the PCP can take better care of him/her

How often should you go?

Your child needs 11 well-child checkups by the time he or she is three years old. Children older than two, including teenagers, need a well-child checkup each year. Call your PCP to make an appointment if your child is due for a well-child checkup. Missouri Care members can receive shots and well-child visits at no cost to you.



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Well Child Checkup Schedule

Your child should have a well-child checkup at each of these ages. Call your child's PCP to make an appointment if your child is due for a well-child checkup.

Recommended Checkups

Newborn	7 years
By one month	8 years
2 – 3 months	9 years
4 – 5 months	10 years
6 – 8 months	11 years
9 – 11 months	12 years
12 – 14 months	13 years
15 – 17 months	14 years
18 – 23 months	15 years
24 months	16 years
30 months	17 years
3 years	18 years
4 years	19 years
5 years	20 years
6 years	

Lead Screening:

Children between 6 months and 6 years old need to get checked for lead poisoning. A Blood Lead Level Test is recommended for women of child-bearing age.

Blood Lead Level Tests:

- 12 months
- 24 months
- 3-6 years (each year if in a high-risk area)

Remember to ask your child's PCP if your child needs any shots (immunizations). If your child plays school sports, the sports physical can be done at the same time as the well-child checkup. (You will need to ask for a well-child checkup when you call to schedule the appointment.)