

Vaccination Schedule for Dogs: Core and Non-core Vaccines

Dog Vaccine	Initial Puppy Vaccination (at or under 16 weeks)	Initial Adult Dog Vaccination (over 16 weeks)	Booster Recommendation	Comments
Rabies 1-year	Can be administered in one dose, as early as 3 months of age. States regulate the age at which it is first administered.	Single dose	Annual boosters are required.	<i>Core dog vaccine.</i> Rabies is 100% fatal to dogs, with no treatment available. Prevention is key.
Rabies 3-year	Can be administered as one dose, as early as 3 months of age. States regulate the age at which it is first administered.	Single dose	A second vaccination is recommended after 1 year, then boosters every 3 years.	<i>Core dog vaccine.</i>
Distemper	At least 3 doses, given between 6 and 16 weeks of age	2 doses, given 3-4 weeks apart	Puppies need a booster 1 year after completing their initial series, then all dogs need a booster every 3 years or more often.	<i>Core dog vaccine.</i> Caused by an airborne virus, distemper is a severe disease that, among other problems, may cause permanent brain damage.
Parvovirus	At least 3 doses, given between 6 and 16 weeks of age	2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart	Puppies need a booster 1 year after completing the initial series, then all dogs need a booster every 3 years or more often.	<i>Core dog vaccine.</i> Canine "parvo" is contagious, and can cause severe vomiting and bloody diarrhea. Parvo is usually fatal if untreated.
Adenovirus, type 1 (CAV-1, canine hepatitis)	At least 3 doses, between 6 and 16 weeks of age	2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart	Puppies need a booster 1 year after completing the initial series, then all dogs need a booster every 3 years or more often.	<i>Core dog vaccine.</i> Spread via infected urine and feces; canine hepatitis can lead to severe liver damage, and death.
Adenovirus, type 2 (CAV-2, kennel cough)	At least 3 doses, between 6 and 16 weeks of age	2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart	Puppies need a booster 1 year after completing the initial series, then all dogs need a booster every 3 years or more often.	<i>Core dog vaccine.</i> Spread via coughs and sneezes.
Parainfluenza	Administered at 6-8 weeks of age, then every 3-4 weeks until 12-14 weeks old	1 dose	A booster may be necessary after 1 year, depending on manufacturer recommendations; revaccination every 3 years is considered protective.	<i>Non-core dog vaccine.</i> Parainfluenza infection (not the same as canine influenza) results in cough, fever. It may be associated with Bordetella infection.
Bordetella bronchiseptica (kennel cough)	Depends on the vaccine type; 2 doses are usually needed for protection	1 dose of the intranasal or oral product, or 2 doses of the injected product	Annual or 6-month boosters may be recommended for dogs in high-risk environments.	<i>Non-core dog vaccine.</i> Not usually a serious condition, although it can be dangerous in young puppies. It is usually seen after activities like boarding or showing.
Lyme disease	1 dose, administered as early as 9 weeks, with a second dose 2-4 weeks later	2 doses, 2-4 weeks apart	May be needed annually, prior to the start of tick season	<i>Non-core dog vaccine.</i> Generally recommended only for dogs with a high risk for exposure to Lyme disease-carrying ticks.
Leptospirosis	First dose as early as 8 weeks, with a second dose 2-4 weeks later	2 doses, 2-4 weeks apart	At least once yearly for dogs in high-risk areas	<i>Non-core dog vaccine.</i> Vaccination is generally restricted to established risk areas. Exposure to rodents and standing water can lead to a leptospirosis infection.
Canine influenza	First dose as early as 6-8 weeks; second dose 2-4 weeks later	2 doses, 2-4 weeks apart	Yearly	<i>Non-core dog vaccine.</i> Similar to bordetella.