

Northern Ireland offers a comprehensive vaccination programme, **free for eligible individuals** based on age or risk group, to protect against serious diseases. **Learn about [vaccines](#) and access information on [immunisation and vaccinations programmes on nidirect page](#)** in addition to the PHA resources for Northern Ireland.

Vaccination programmes offered in Northern Ireland

The [Department of Health](#) selects vaccination programmes based on expert advice, and delivery involves collaboration between healthcare providers, public health experts, and other organisations. These include government departments, public health experts, academic researchers, commissioners, pharmacists, school health teams, health visitors and GPs.

Programme types:

- Universal - offered to everyone (e.g., school-based programmes)
- Targeted - for those at higher risk (e.g., pregnancy, or elderly programmes)

Key programme: Influenza (flu)

The [Influenza \(flu\) vaccine programme](#) is the largest, most comprehensive programme, running from October to March for:

- Children
- Adults
- Health and social care workers

Vaccination programmes advice and schedules:

[January 2026 \(Phase 2\) - Changes to childhood immunisation schedule \(under review\)](#)

Effective 1 January 2026, childhood immunisation schedule changes with the introduction of the MMRV vaccine (measles,

mumps, rubella, varicella/chickenpox), replacing the MMR vaccine for most routine doses [Read more about Measles - don't let your child catch it - get the MMRV vaccine.](#)

Childhood immunisations by age

- [Childhood immunisation programme leaflets from January 2026](#)

Protecting children from an early age is vital to their health.

| Age group | Vaccine |
|--|---|
| | Vaccines in this age provide protection against diseases such as Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Hib, MMRV, Men B, Men C, pneumococcal, rotavirus, BCG, influenza. |
| Babies up to 12 months | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunisation: for premature babies• Immunisation for babies: up to a year old• Changes to the infant pneumococcal conjugate vaccine schedule - Information for healthcare practitioners• Rotavirus factsheet for parents (Immunisation)• Measles - don't let your child catch it - get the MMRV vaccine |
| Babies just after their 1st birthday: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunisation: for babies just after their first birthday• Measles - don't let your child catch it - get the MMRV vaccine |
| Children aged 18 months: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunisation: for children aged 18 months• Measles - don't let your child catch it - get the MMRV vaccine |

Age group

Vaccine

Preschool children (aged 3 years and 4 months old):

- Children in this age group should receive booster vaccines to strengthen their immunity against serious illnesses such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MMR.
 - [Immunisation: for pre-school children](#)
 - [Childhood immunisation programme leaflets from January 2026](#)
 - [Measles, mumps, rubella and varicella \(MMRV\) vaccine | nidirect](#)

12-13 years old:

- Children in this age group should receive booster vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MenACWY, MMR, and get started on HPV.
 - [Help protect yourself: The essential guide to the HPV vaccination for all young people aged 12 to 13 and translations](#)

14-18 years old:

- These include boosters and additional vaccines to maintain long-term immunity.
 - [Teenage immunisations for ages 14 to 18 \(English and translations\)](#)
 - [Meningococcal ACWY programme for adolescents](#)

18-25 years old:

- First-time university attendees are encouraged to ensure they are fully vaccinated, including protection against meningitis.
 - [Those attending university for the first time](#)

Parental webinars:

- [General childhood immunisation guidelines for parents \(webinar in English\) 2025](#)

- [General childhood immunisation guidelines for parents \(translation slides in Bulgarian - Romany\)](#)
- [General childhood immunisation guidelines for parents \(translation slides in Romanian - Romany\)](#)

Childhood immunisation schedule (parental guidance)

| Age due | Vaccines that protect against | | Vaccine given |
|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| 8 weeks old | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and hepatitis B | | DTaP/IPV/Hib/He (6 in 1 vaccine) - one injection |
| | Meningococcal group B (MenB) | | MenB - one injection |
| | Rotavirus gastroenteritis | | Rotavirus - orally |
| 12 weeks old | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and hepatitis B | | DTaP/IPV/Hib/He (6 in 1 vaccine) - one injection |
| | Meningococcal group B (MenB) | | MenB - one injection |
| | Rotavirus gastroenteritis | | Rotavirus - orally |
| 16 weeks old | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and hepatitis B | | DTaP/IPV/Hib/He (6 in 1 vaccine) - one injection |
| | Pneumococcal (13 serotypes) • if received pneumococcal at 12 weeks give Men B | | PCV - one injection |
| Age due | Vaccines that protect against | | Vaccine given |
| One year old | | | |
| (on or after the child's first birthday) | Born before 1 July 2024 | Born on or after 1 July 2024 | |
| | Pneumococcal | Pneumococcal | PCV - one injection |
| | Measles, mumps, rubella | Measles, mumps, rubella | MMR - one injection |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | MenB Hib/MenC (if Hib/MenC exhausted give DTaP/Hib/IPV/HepB) | MenB | MenB - one injection Hib/MenC - one injection |
| 18 months | No appointment | DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB Measles, mumps, rubella | DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB - one injection MMR - one injection |
| 3 years 4 months old or soon after | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio Measles, mumps, rubella | Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio | dTaP/IPV - one injection MMR - one injection |
| Boys and girls aged 12 to 13 years | Cancers and genital warts caused by specific human papillomavirus (HPV) types | | HPV - one injection |
| 14 years old (school Year 9) | Tetanus, diphtheria and polio Meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y | | Td/IPV - one injection MenACWY - one injection |
| Eligible paediatric age group See annual flu letter | Influenza (each year from September) | | LAIV (Live attenuated influenza vaccine • If LAIV is contraindicated o otherwise unsuitable use inactivated flu vaccine (check Green Book chapter 19 for details) - injection or nasal spray |

Selective childhood immunisation programmes

| Target group | Age and schedule | Disease | Vaccines required |
|---|---|----------------|---|
| Babies born to mothers with hepatitis B | At birth, 4 weeks if born before 1 July 2024 give additional dose at one year | Hepatitis B | Hepatitis B (Engerix B/HBvaxPRO) |
| Infants in areas of the country with TB incidence \geq 40/100,000 | Around 28 days old | Tuberculosis | BCG Check SCID screening outcome before giving BCG |
| Infants with a parent or grandparent born in a high incidence country | Around 28 days old | Tuberculosis | BCG Check SCID screening outcome before giving BCG |
| Children in a clinical risk group | Age under 2 years • if first ever flu vaccine give second dose at 4 weeks | Influenza | Inactivated flu vaccine |
| | Aged 2 to 8 years • if first ever flu vaccine give second dose at 4 weeks | | LAIV • if LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable give inactivated flu |
| | Aged 9 to 17 years • only one dose required each flu season | | LAIV • if LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable give inactivated flu |
| Pregnant women | At any stage of pregnancy during flu season | Influenza | Inactivated flu vaccine |
| | From 16 weeks gestation | Pertussis | Tdap (ADACEL) |
| | From 28 weeks gestation | RSV | RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) |

There are various vaccines available that protect children against:

- [BCG and your baby: protecting babies against TB](#)
- [diphtheria \(D\)](#)
- [flu](#)
- [haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\)](#)
- [hepatitis B](#)
- [human papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#)
- [meningococcal disease \(groups A, C, W and Y\); Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenager](#)
- [meningococcal disease \(group B\); Fact sheet on meningitis B immunisation](#)
- **MMRV vaccine - [measles - don't let your child catch it - get the MMRV vaccine](#)**: protects your child against [measles, mumps and rubella \(German measles\) \(MMR\)](#) and [chickenpox](#). Measles, mumps and rubella can cause severe complications. Early vaccination is critical to keep your child safe.
- [pertussis \(whooping cough\); Pertussis \(whooping cough](#) includes infants, children, pregnant women)
- [pneumococcal infection \(PCV\)](#)
- [polio \(IPV\)](#)
- [Rotavirus factsheet for parents \(Immunisation\)](#)
- [tetanus \(T\)](#)

July 2025 (Phase 1) - Changes to childhood immunisation schedule

Effective 1 July 2025, the childhood immunisation (vaccination) schedule in Northern Ireland was updated.

This offers children even better protection against infectious diseases such as measles and meningitis.

- [Childhood immunisation schedule changes and translations \(leaflet\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Childhood immunisation programme changes | nidirect](#)

- [Changes to childhood schedule newsletter - Issue 1, 30 June 2025 \(newsletter\)](#)
- [Policy letter from the Chief Medical Office Department of Health - HSS\(MD\) 15/2025 - Changes to Routine Childhood Vaccination Schedule from 1 July 2025](#)

Incomplete vaccination status

- [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation – GOV.UK](#)

Eligibility calculator

- [Calculator tool kit](#)

Vaccination programmes in NI information pages (ni direct)

Vaccination programmes information pages:

Preschool vaccine programmes

- [Childhood immunisation](#)
- [Childhood immunisation programme](#)
- [BCG vaccination for babies](#)
- [Measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\)](#)
- [Vaccines for children](#)

School based vaccine programmes

- [MenACWY vaccination for teenagers and students](#)
- [HPV vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 13 years old](#)
- [Immunisation for teenagers between 14 and 18 years old](#)

Pregnancy vaccine programmes

- [Vaccinations in pregnancy](#)
- [Whooping cough vaccination for pregnant women](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccine for pregnant women](#)

Elderly vaccine programmes

- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccine for older adults](#)
- [Shingles vaccine](#)

Targeted programmes for adults, children and HSC occupational health

- [COVID-19 vaccine safety](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Flu vaccination](#)
- [**Influenza \(flu\) vaccine programme**](#)
- [HPV vaccine for men who have sex with men](#)

Vaccination during pregnancy and recommended schedule

Vaccination during pregnancy helps protect both mother and baby.

Vaccination during pregnancy can help prevent disease or make illness less serious for you, and for your baby. This is because the antibodies (natural substances your body produces to fight infection) are passed to your unborn baby, helping to protect them in their first few weeks of life.

Key advice and resources:

- [Schedule of antenatal appointments and recommended vaccinations | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Vaccinations in pregnancy | nidirect](#)
- [Vaccinations in pregnancy - NHS](#)

Flu (influenza)

- [Flu is more serious than you think: Pregnant women \(English and translations\)](#)
- [Flu vaccine | nidirect](#)

RSV

- [How to protect your baby from RSV | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

- [RSV – it's not just a winter vaccine | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccine for pregnant women | nidirect](#)
- [RSV vaccination training slides_maternal programme for infant protection 08.2024.pptx](#)

Whooping cough (Pertussis)

- [Whooping Cough \(Pertussis\) immunisation - Leaflet | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Whooping cough vaccination for pregnant women | nidirect](#)

Protecting your baby from:

- [Hepatitis B: what your positive screening result means \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Your rubella \(German measles\) screening test result - What you need to know \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Pregnancy webinars

- [Vaccinations during pregnancy \(pptx slides from webinar\) - 25 October 2024](#)

Recommended schedule:

| Vaccine | When to have the vaccine |
|---|--|
| Whooping Cough (Pertussis) immunisation | Offered from 16 weeks. The best time to have the whooping cough vaccine is from 16 to 32 weeks of pregnancy. You can have it up until your baby is born, but it may be less effective later in pregnancy. |
| How to protect your baby from RSV | Offered from 28 weeks. The best time to have the RSV vaccine is from 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy. You can have it up until your baby is born, but it may be less effective later in pregnancy. |
| Influenza (flu) vaccine | Offered during flu season (which may be at any time during your pregnancy). You should have the flu vaccine as soon as it is offered to you. |

Vaccination for older adults (aged 65 years and over)

Different immunisations are available for adults aged 65 years and over.

Vaccinations play crucial role in protecting older adults from age-related health risks.

Flu (influenza) and COVID-19

- [Flu is more serious than you think \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Flu vaccine | nidirect](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme questions and answers | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): vaccine safety | nidirect](#)

Pneumonia

- [Pneumococcal vaccine - helping to protect against pneumonia, meningitis and other serious illnesses | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Pneumonia | nidirect](#)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- [Your guide to the RSV vaccine for older adults | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccination programme launches in Northern Ireland | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccine for older adults | nidirect](#)

Shingles

- [The shingles vaccine - to help protect you from the pain of shingles | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Shingles vaccine | nidirect](#)

Targeted programmes (children and adults)

Targeted programmes

BCG (tuberculosis)

- [BCG and your baby Protecting babies against TB | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Hepatitis B

- Includes: Universal hepatitis B programme and hepatitis B vaccine for at risk babies
- Resources: [Clinical guidelines on hepatitis B](#)

Influenza (flu)

- Includes: Children, adults, pregnant women and healthcare workers
- Resources: [Flu resources for professionals](#)

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)

- [HPV vaccination for gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [HPV vaccine for men who have sex with men | nidirect](#)
- [Gonorrhoea vaccination programme for Northern Ireland | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [A guide to the Meningococcal B vaccine for protection against gonorrhoea | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Pregnant women

- Includes: Flu, pertussis, MMR, hepatitis B and syphilis advice
- Resources: check Vaccination during pregnancy and recommended schedule accordion above within this page

Shingles

- [The shingles vaccine - to help protect you from the pain of shingles | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Shingles vaccine | nidirect](#)
- Resources: [Factsheet on shingles vaccination](#)

Splenectomy

- Includes: MenACWY, pneumococcal, flu

- Resources: [Factsheet on splenectomy](#)

Travel vaccines and travel health advice

For travel health advice and travel vaccines, visit:

- [NATHNAC support for those providing health information to people going travelling](#)
- [TRAVAX travel health information](#)
- [PHA's travel advice page](#)

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