

Immunisation protects against serious diseases, reducing risk for individuals and communities, detailed information can be found on the pages of [Immunisation and vaccinations | nidirect](#).

- [Childhood immunisation](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine safety](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Flu vaccination](#)
- [HPV vaccine for men who have sex with men](#)
- [Measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\)](#)
- [MenACWY vaccination for teenagers and students](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccine for older adults](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) vaccine for pregnant women](#)
- [Shingles vaccine](#)
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[Childhood immunisation programmes and schedule](#)

Childhood immunisations

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

- **[For infants and children under 2 years](#)**: Vaccines in this age provide protection against diseases such as Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Hib, MMR, Men B, Men C, pneumococcal, rotavirus, BCG, influenza
Resources: [Childhood immunisation programme](#)
- **[For preschool children \(aged 2- 4 years\)](#)**: Children in this age group should receive booster vaccines to strengthen their immunity against serious illnesses such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MMR.

- **For 12-13 year olds:** Children in this age group should receive booster vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MenACWY, MMR, and get started on HPV: Resources: [Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenagers](#) ; [Factsheet on HPV vaccine for children in Year 9 and 10](#); [HPV vaccine training slides 2019 15 8 19.pptx](#)
- **For 11-18 year olds:** [HPV vaccine](#): protects against the human papillomavirus, which can lead to certain cancers.
- **For 14-18 years old:** these include boosters and additional vaccines to maintain long-term immunity.
- **[Those attending University for the first time](#):** First-time university attendees are encouraged to ensure they are fully vaccinated, including protection against meningitis.

There are vaccines to protect children against:

- [flu](#)
- [diphtheria \(D\)](#)(external link opens in a new window / tab)
- [tetanus \(T\)](#)
- [pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#); [Pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#) includes infants, children, pregnant women)
- [polio \(IPV\)](#)(external link opens in a new window / tab)
- [haemophilus influenzae type b \(Hib\)](#)
- [hepatitis B](#)
- [measles](#)
- [mumps](#)
- [rubella](#)
- [meningococcal disease \(groups A, C, W and Y\)](#); [Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenager](#)
- [meningococcal disease \(group B\)](#); [Fact sheet on meningitis B immunisation](#)
- [pneumococcal infection \(PCV\)](#)
- [human papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#)
- [rotavirus](#); [Factsheet on rotavirus immunisation](#)

Parental webinars:

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

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

MMR vaccine:

- Protects your child against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles).
- Given as a single injection containing three vaccines.
- Schedule: 1st dose: just after your child's first birthday, 2nd dose: at three years and four months old.
- Why it's important: Measles, mumps and rubella can cause severe complications. Early vaccination is critical to keep your child safe. [Click for more information and advice on MMR.](#)

Childhood immunisation schedule

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	MenB	MenB - one injection
	Hib/MenC (if Hib/MenC exhausted give DTaP/Hib/IPV/HepB)		Hib/MenC - one injection
18 months	No appointment	DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB	DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB - one injection
		Measles, mumps, rubella	MMR - one injection
3 years 4 months old or soon after	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio	dTaP/IPV - one injection
	Measles, mumps, rubella		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		Td/IPV - one injection
	Meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y		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 or otherwise unsuitable use inactivated flu vaccine (check Green Book chapter 19 for details) - injection or nasal spray
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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 Aged 2 to 8 years • if first ever flu vaccine give second dose at 4 weeks	Influenza	Inactivated flu vaccine 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)

Immunisation during pregnancy

Vaccination during pregnancy helps protect both mother and baby.

- [Whooping cough](#) (leaflet): helps protect newborns from this serious disease
- [Influenza](#): pregnant women are at higher risk from flu complications.
- [Rubella](#): learn about risks of rubella during your pregnancy.
- [Hepatitis B](#): protect your baby from Hep B with timely vaccination.

Pregnancy webinars

- [Vaccinations during pregnancy \(pptx slides from webinar\) - 25 October 2024](#)
- [RSV vaccination training slides maternal programme for infant protection 08.2024.pptx](#)

Immunisation for over 65s

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

- [Influenza](#): annual flu vaccines reduce the risk of severe illness.

- [Shingles](#): protects against painful and potentially long-lasting shingles infections.

Targeted immunisation programmes

Targeted programmes

BCG (tuberculosis)

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](#)

HPV vaccine

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

Pregnant women

- Includes: Flu, pertussis, MMR, hepatitis B and syphilis advice

Shingles

- Resources: [Factsheet on shingles vaccination](#)

Splenectomy

- Includes: MenACWY, pneumococcal, flu
- Resources: [Factsheet on splenectomy](#)

Travel vaccines (National Travel and Health Network, Travax)

- [NATHNAC support for those providing health information to people going travelling](#)
- [TRAVAX travel health information](#)

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