

The childhood immunisation schedule is changing

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is a group of experts across the UK who help decide which vaccines children should get and when. It has recommended changes to the childhood immunisation schedule that will apply in Northern Ireland.

The diagram on the next page shows the changes. The new schedule will give your child even better protection against serious diseases.

- The first changes will begin on 1 July 2025. The timing of two vaccines given in the current vaccination schedule will swap. The meningococcal B (MenB) given at 16 weeks will move forward to 12 weeks. The pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine will be given at 16 weeks.
- Protection against meningococcal C (MenC) is no longer required at 12 months due to good uptake in the teenage vaccination programme. The vaccine given at 12 months, which protects against *Haemophilus influenzae* b (Hib), will move to a new appointment at 18 months.
- From January 2026, the second dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine will move to a new appointment at 18 months, which will help protect your child earlier.
- Whether your child is affected by the changes will depend on their date of birth.
- You will continue to be called for all your child's scheduled vaccination appointments when they are due.
- New information leaflets will be produced for January 2026 – if you need up-to-date information before this, please check online by following the QR code or link:
www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/childhood-immunisation



If you have any questions about changes to the schedule, please speak to your child's health visitor, your family nurse or GP. It is important to bring your child for vaccination at the time they are invited to help keep them healthy and protect them from serious diseases.

Remember, vaccinations are safe, effective and can save lives

This diagram shows the current childhood immunisation schedule with 2025 and 2026 changes highlighted

