



Is your baby up to date?

Your child needs
5 visits to their
GP practice to
be fully
vaccinated.



#KeepUpToDate with your baby's vaccines
NIO Campaign Pack

July 2023



#KeepUpToDate with your baby's vaccines

July 2023

Background

The HSE is urging parents to make sure children are up to date with their routine vaccines. The first vaccines children receive give them important protection from a number of vaccine preventable diseases.

Childhood vaccination rates have fallen below the uptake rates recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). In both Ireland and Europe, many children are not up to date with their recommended vaccines, leaving them vulnerable to disease.

Vaccination is the best way we can prevent infectious diseases (including measles) from spreading and outbreaks from occurring.

We want to inform parents/guardians about the importance of their child's first vaccines in protecting them against serious infectious diseases.

With childhood vaccination rates falling in Ireland and Europe, many children are now at risk of serious diseases, such as measles. In fact there have been more cases reported in Europe so far this year than were reported in the whole of 2022. The World Health Organization (WHO) have also warned about the risk of measles in children as a result of low MMR vaccine uptake following the pandemic.

We want to remind parents/guardians that your child needs five visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated.

Your baby needs five visits to their GP practice at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 13 months so they can be fully vaccinated. If your child has missed any vaccines it is not too late to catch up.

We want to encourage parents/guardians to act now and make an appointment with their GP practice for their baby's vaccines.

Don't delay getting your baby's recommended vaccines. It also is not too late to catch up on any vaccines your baby may have missed. It is a good time now, before travelling abroad this summer, to check your child's vaccination records and make sure they are up to date with their recommended vaccines.

Talk to a trusted health and care professional about your child's vaccines.

For more information, visit www.immunisation.ie

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Frequently asked questions

Early childhood vaccines

What vaccines are recommended for my baby?

Your baby's first vaccines gives them important protection from serious infectious diseases. Your baby will need to visit their GP practice 5 times to be fully vaccinated:

When your child is **2 months** they get

- PCV13 vaccine (protection against pneumococcal disease)
- MenB vaccine (protection against meningococcal B which can cause meningitis and/or septicaemia)
- Rotavirus oral vaccine
- 6 in 1 vaccine (protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis/whooping cough, Hib, polio and hepatitis B)

When your child is **4 months** they get

- 6 in 1 vaccine (second dose)
- MenB vaccine
- Rotavirus oral vaccine

When your child is **6 months** they get

- 6 in 1 vaccine (third dose)
- PCV13 vaccine
- MenC vaccine (protection against meningococcal C which can cause meningitis and/or septicaemia)

When your child is **12 months** they get

- MMR vaccine
- MenB vaccine

When your child is **13 months** they get

- Hib/MenC vaccine
- PCV13 vaccine

When should my baby get their recommended vaccines?

Your baby will need to visit their GP practice five times to be fully vaccinated – at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 13 months of age. But if your child has missed a vaccine (s) it is not too late for them to catch up.

Where can my baby get their recommended vaccines?

Your baby can get their routine vaccines from their GP/Practice Nurse at your GP practice.

How can I make a vaccine appointment for my baby?

Contact your local GP practice to book an appointment for your baby's free vaccines.



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Frequently asked questions

Early childhood vaccines (cont.)

Can I give anything to my baby before they are vaccinated?

You can give your baby milk to drink a few minutes before their vaccination. This can help reduce pain where your baby gets the vaccine.

For your baby's 2 and 4 month vaccines you should buy some liquid infant paracetamol to give to them after vaccination (three doses of 2.5mls at the time of vaccination, 4-6 hours after the first paracetamol dose and 4-6 hours after the second dose) as it will reduce the fever after getting their MenB vaccines due at 2 and 4 months.

Do not give paracetamol to your baby before you go to your GP practice.

Why should my baby get vaccinated?

Your baby's first vaccines give them important protection from a number of serious infectious diseases like meningitis, measles and polio. Younger children, especially babies, are more at risk of serious illness and disease, even needing hospital treatment with diseases like measles and meningitis.

Vaccination is the best way we can help protect children and prevent diseases like measles from spreading and outbreaks occurring. Many children are not up to date with their routine vaccines, putting them at serious risk. In Ireland, uptake rates of the MMR vaccines (first and second dose). Uptake rates of the first and second doses of the MMR vaccine in Ireland are below the 95% rate that is recommended by the WHO to stop measles from spreading.

Getting your baby vaccinated on time gives them the best protection.

Vaccination protects your baby from certain diseases which can cause severe illness and harm at a vulnerable time in their lives. All vaccines are safe and effective.

What to do if my baby missed out on a vaccine (s)?

If your baby is not up to date with all of their recommend vaccines and has missed out on a vaccine (s), you should contact your GP practice to make an appointment.

Note: *Some parents/guardians may also receive a letter from their local immunisation office reminding them to attend their GP practice if their child is not up to date with their vaccinations.*

Advice for parents and guardians considering vaccination for their child?

It's normal to have questions or concerns about the vaccines for your child. Talk to a trusted health and care professional or visit www.immunisation.ie for more information about your child's vaccines.

When preparing to travel abroad this summer, it's a good time to check your vaccination records and make sure that your children have had their recommended vaccines.

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Audiences

Parents and guardians

Health and care professionals

Partner organisations

Key messages

1. It is important to keep up to date with your baby's vaccines. If your child has missed any of their recommend vaccines, it is not too late to catch up.
2. Many children in Ireland are not up to date with their recommended vaccines, putting them at risk of serious infectious diseases like measles.
3. Your baby's first vaccines gives them important protection against life-threatening diseases like measles. It is the best way to protect your little ones.
4. Your baby needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated – at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 13 months.

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We welcome your ongoing help, support and partnership.

1. Support the campaign

Please share the social media assets with your own message or post it to your social pages tagging @HSEImm

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hseimm/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hseimm>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hse-national-immunisation-office>

YouTube: [HSE National Immunisation Office](#)

Spotify: [HSE National Immunisation Office](#)

2. Share our social media messages

You can support the campaign by reposting and sharing posts from the NIO.

You can also share some of the social media messages and images on the next pages.

Thank you for your ongoing support – it makes a big difference.

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Sample social media messages

Is your baby up to date?

Your child needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated.



HSE National Immunisation Office

Is your baby up to date?

Your child needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated.



HSE National Immunisation Office

Are you up to date with your baby's vaccines? It's not too late to get your child protected from serious infectious diseases and catch up on any missed vaccines.

Contact your GP practice to book your child's next vaccine appointment.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/pcischedule/>

#KeepUpToDate

Your child needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated.

Make an appointment at your GP practice today.



#KeepUpToDate

HSE National Immunisation Office

Caithfear do leanbh a thabhairt ar chúig chuairt chuig do dhochtúir ginearálta chun go mbeidh sé/sí cosanta go hiomlán ar ghalair thromchúiseacha.



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HSE National Immunisation Office

Your child needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated. Your baby's vaccines are due at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 13 months. Contact your GP practice to book your baby's next vaccine appointment.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/pcischedule/>

#KeepUpToDate

Caithfear do leanbh a thabhairt ar chúig chuairt chuig do dhochtúir ginearálta chun go mbeidh sé/sí cosanta go hiomlán ar ghalair thromchúiseacha.

Déan coinne le do dhochtúir ginearálta le haghaidh vacsaíní do linbh.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/pcischedule/>

#KeepUpToDate

Keeping up to date with your baby's first vaccines is the best way to protect your little ones from serious infectious diseases.

Contact your GP practice to book your baby's next vaccine appointment.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/pcischedule/>

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Sample social media messages



1

6 in 1 vaccine

Protects your baby against diphtheria, haemophilus influenzae b (Hib), hepatitis B, whooping cough, polio and tetanus.



2

MenB vaccine

Protects your baby against Meningococcal B disease.



3

PCV vaccine

Protects your baby against pneumococcal disease.



4

Rotavirus vaccine

Protects your baby against rotavirus disease.



TIP: Your child may have a sore leg or fever especially after the MenB vaccine. We recommend that you give your child **3 doses** of liquid infant paracetamol.



Your baby will need **four** more visits to your GP practice to get all their vaccines and be fully protected against serious diseases.



Make an appointment with your GP practice and keep up to date with your baby's vaccines.

Swipe -> to find out what vaccines are recommended for your child when they are 2 months old and how getting vaccinated protects them against serious diseases.

Your child needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated. Your baby's vaccines are due at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 13 months.

For more information visit [immunisation.ie](https://www.immunisation.ie). Link in bio.

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Sample social media messages



5 tips


you need to know about

your baby's vaccines

Swipe →

Your baby needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated.

Your baby's vaccines are due when they are 2, 4, 6, 12 and 13 months old.



>>>

Keep your baby's immunisation passport safe.


You need to bring your baby's immunisation passport to each vaccine appointment.



>>>

Set reminders for your baby's vaccine appointments.

Set a reminder in your phone for your baby's vaccine appointment.



>>>

If your baby has a cold, is on antibiotics or is teething they can still be vaccinated,

once they **don't** have a high temperature. Don't delay your baby's vaccine appointment.



>>>

For more information visit [immunisation.ie](https://www.immunisation.ie)

Swipe -> for 5 tips to remember when getting your baby's first vaccines. The vaccines recommended for your baby give them important protection against serious infectious diseases.

Your child needs 5 visits to their GP practice to be fully vaccinated. Your baby's vaccines are due at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 13 months.

For more information visit [immunisation.ie](https://www.immunisation.ie). Link in bio.

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Sample social media messages

Is your child protected against measles?

Children need **two doses** of the MMR vaccine to be fully protected against measles.



HE Health Education England

Is your child protected against measles?

Children need **two doses** of the MMR vaccine to be fully protected against measles.



HE Health Education England

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HE Health Education England

Your child needs two doses of the MMR vaccine to be fully protected. It is the best way to protect our little ones from measles

<https://bit.ly/3OII2C8>

#KeepUpToDate | #VaccinesWork

There have been more cases reported in Europe so far this year than were reported in the whole of 2022. Getting the MMR vaccine is the best way we can prevent the spread of measles and protect our little ones.

<https://bit.ly/3OII2C8>

#KeepUpToDate | #VaccinesWork

#KeepUpToDate with your baby's vaccines

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Sample social media messages

An bhfuil do pháiste cosanta ar an mbruitíneach?

Ní mór dhá dháileog na vacsaíne MMR a thabhairt do do pháiste ionas go mbeidh siad cosanta go hiomlán ar an mbruitíneach.



HE
HEALTH
EQUITY
EVIDENCE
EMPOWERMENT

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Tá níos mó cásanna den bhruitíneach san Eoraip ó thús na bliana seo ná mar a bhí sa bhliain ar fad i 2022. S'í an vacsaín MMR an tslí is fearr le stop a chur le scaipeadh na bruitíní agus le bheith cinnte go bhfuil ár bpáistí cosanta.

<https://bit.ly/3OI12C8>

#KeepUpToDate | #VaccinesWork

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Posters



Is your child protected against measles?

"The MMR vaccine is the best way to protect your child from measles. Two doses of the vaccine gives your child the best protection."

- Ann McDonnell
Traveller Primary Health Care Worker

Information about your child's MMR vaccine

SCAN ME





[Download poster with Ann McDonnell on why the MMR vaccine is important to protect your child against measles.](#)

Videos

[Watch Ann McDonnell, Traveller Primary Health Care Worker explain why it is important to keep your children's vaccines up to date.](#)

[Watch Dr Chantal Migone, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, explain that vaccines including the MMR vaccine are safe and how your children can get the vaccine.](#)

Short videos on the importance of early childhood vaccines from key Public Health subject-matter-experts in English and Irish.

**Please share with your
networks**

Thank you

If you have any queries or ideas, please contact
cria.dowling@hse.ie.

Thanks for supporting the campaign.

