

Tdap and MenC (Meningitis) booster vaccines

Information for parents of children
in First Year of second level school



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Tdap and MenC (Meningitis) booster vaccine

Information for parents of children in First Year of second level school.

Your child needs to be protected from infectious diseases. Read this leaflet to find out about the vaccines they are being offered.

Tdap Booster Vaccine

What is the name of the Tdap Vaccine?

The Tdap vaccine is called Boostrix.

What is the Tdap booster vaccine?

The Tdap booster vaccine protects your child against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (pertussis).

Your child should have received vaccines protecting them from these diseases at 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

Your child should also have received a booster dose in Junior Infants at 4 to 5 years – the 4 in 1 vaccine.

Tdap is a booster vaccine for First Year students.

How serious are these diseases?

All these infections are serious diseases that can lead to hospital admission and at worst can cause death.

	Common symptoms	Possible complications
Tetanus	Painful muscle spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convulsions• Lockjaw• Death
Diphtheria	Sore throat Fast heart rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing difficulties• Paralysis• Heart failure• Death
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Irritating cough that sounds like a whoop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing difficulties• Heart and lung failure• Death



Why are children in First Year being offered this vaccine?

Immunity to diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough reduces over time so a booster dose is recommended now to provide additional protection.

Are there any children who should not get Tdap vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get Tdap vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they had a very severe reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine containing diphtheria, tetanus or whooping cough or any part of the vaccine.

You should delay getting the Tdap vaccine if your child is ill with a high fever.

MenC (Meningitis) Booster Vaccine

What is the name of the MenC (Meningitis) vaccine?

The MenC (Meningitis) vaccine is called Menjugate.

What is the MenC (Meningitis) booster vaccine?

The MenC (Meningitis) booster vaccine protects your child against meningococcal C infection.

Your child should have received MenC (Meningitis) vaccine protecting them from this disease at 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

What is meningococcal C disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain), septicaemia (blood poisoning) and lead to death.

The onset of meningococcal disease can be very quick. The symptoms include fever, stiff neck, headache, joint pains, and a rash.

Meningococcal disease may occur at any age but the highest rate of disease occurs in children under 5 years of age, especially children under one year of age.

The next highest risk group are young people aged 15-19 years.

Why are children in First Year being offered this vaccine?

Immunity to meningococcal disease reduces over time so a booster dose is recommended now to provide additional protection.

Are there any children who should not get MenC (Meningitis) vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get MenC (Meningitis) vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they had a very severe reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous MenC (Meningitis) vaccine or to any part of the vaccine such as latex.

You should delay getting the MenC (Meningitis) vaccine if your child is ill with a high fever.

Do Tdap or MenC (Meningitis) vaccines have any side-effects?

Most children have no problems after Tdap or MenC (Meningitis) vaccines.

Occasionally children may feel unwell and faint after getting an injection. They will be advised to sit down for 15 minutes after vaccination which helps prevent fainting.

About 1 in 4 children may have an area of soreness, swelling and redness where the injection was given, which usually passes after a day or two. They may get a headache, nausea or a fever. If this happens you can give them paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Severe allergic reaction to either vaccine is extremely rare.

Can Tdap and MenC (Meningitis) vaccines be given at the same time?

The Tdap and MenC (Meningitis) vaccine can be safely given at the same time.

Can Tdap or MenC (Meningitis) vaccines be given at the same time as HPV vaccine?

The Tdap and MenC (Meningitis) vaccines can also be given at the same time as the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine (which is given to girls).

If you give consent for your child to have these vaccines your child will receive a vaccine in each arm.

How do I get these vaccines for my child?

These immunisations are part of the school immunisation programme. These vaccines are offered to students in First Year of second level school. You will receive details and a consent form before your child is vaccinated. You cannot get these vaccines from your GP as part of the school programme.

Will my child get a record of this vaccination?

Your child will receive an immunisation passport when the vaccinations have been completed. If you already have an immunisation passport this can be filled in if your child brings it to school on the day of vaccination.

What happens if my child misses the school vaccination?

Your child can still get the vaccine. The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised at a HSE clinic.

More information

If you have any questions or queries please discuss them with a member of your HSE school immunisation team, your public health nurse or your GP.

Visit our website **www.immunisation.ie** to read more information about these infectious diseases and the vaccines.

Visit **www.hpra.ie** or scan the QR codes to read the licensed information about the vaccines.



تتوافر نشرة لقاح Tdap و MenC (Meningitis) في الموقع **www.immunisation.ie** باللغة العربية

La brochure sur les vaccins Tdap et MenC (Meningitis) est disponible en français sur le site **www.immunisation.ie**

Das deutsche Merkblatt zur Tdap- und MenC (Meningitis)-Impfung ist erhältlich unter **www.immunisation.ie**.

Ulotka na temat szczepionki przeciwko Tdap (tężcowi, krztuścowi, błonicy) oraz MenC (Meningitis) (meningokokowemu zapaleniu opon mózgowych typu C) jest dostępna w witrynie **www.immunisation.ie** w języku polskim

O folheto sobre as vacinas Tdap e MenC (Meningitis) está disponível em **www.immunisation.ie** em português

Prospectul vaccinului Tdap și MenC (Meningitis) este disponibil pe pagina de internet **www.immunisation.ie** în limba română

Брошюра о вакцинах Tdap и MenC (Meningitis) доступна на сайте **www.immunisation.ie** на русском языке

可访问 **www.immunisation.ie** 获取[中文]版本的 Tdap 和 MenC (Meningitis) 疫苗宣传单

Leták o vakcínach Tdap a MenC (Meningitis) je v slovenskom jazyku k dispozícii na stránke **www.immunisation.ie**



@hseimm