



4 in 1 & MMR vaccines

Information
for parents
of children in

Junior
Infants



www.immunisation.ie

The 4 in 1 Vaccine

What is the name of the 4 in 1 vaccine?

The 4 in 1 vaccine is called Tetravac.

What is the 4 in 1 vaccine?

4 in 1 is the name given to the vaccine which protects against diphtheria, polio, tetanus and whooping cough (Pertussis). All these infections are serious diseases that can lead to hospital admission and at worst can cause death.

Diseases protected against	Common Symptoms	Possible Complications
Tetanus	Painful muscle spasms	Convulsions (Fits) Lock jaw Death
Diphtheria	Sore throat Fast heart rate	Breathing difficulties Paralysis Heart failure Death
Whooping cough (Pertussis)	Irritating cough that sounds like a whoop	Breathing difficulties Heart and lung failure Death
Polio	Fever Headache Vomiting	Paralysis Death

Who needs the 4 in 1 vaccine?

Your child should have been given vaccines protecting them from these diseases at two, four and six months of age as part of the 6 in 1 vaccine.

In order to boost your child's immune system and provide additional protection against these diseases, a further dose is required in Junior Infants. There is an increase in whooping cough infections in Ireland and Europe so the 4 in 1 vaccine is important to boost protection again whooping cough (Pertussis).

Are there any children who should not get the 4 in 1 vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get the 4 in 1 vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine or any part of a vaccine or had a severe allergic reaction to the antibiotics polymyxin B, streptomycin and neomycin.

You should delay getting the 4 in 1 vaccine if your child:

- is ill with a high fever.



Does the 4 in 1 vaccine have any side-effects?

Most children have no problem after this vaccine.

The most common side effects are a sore, red or swollen arm. Rarely the arm swelling can be from the shoulder to the elbow. This usually occurs within 2 days of the vaccination and gets better over 4-5 days. Antibiotics are not needed to treat this local reaction. You can give paracetamol or ibuprofen. You should also give plenty to drink. Make sure your child is not too warm and that clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

Less commonly children may have a fever or a headache, or feel sick.

The MMR Vaccine

What is the name of the MMR vaccine?


The name of the MMR vaccine is either Priorix or MMRVaxPro.

What is the MMR vaccine?

The MMR vaccine protects your child against measles, mumps and rubella (also called German measles).

Measles, mumps and rubella are caused by viruses and are highly infectious diseases. They are spread when the virus is passed from somebody who has the disease to somebody who has no protection against it.

Diseases protected against	Common Symptoms	Possible Complications
Measles	Fever Rash Red and painful eyes	Encephalitis (swelling of the brain) Pneumonia Bronchitis Ear infections
Mumps	Painful swollen glands under the jaw and fever	Meningitis Deafness Swollen, painful testicles in adult males
Rubella (German measles)	Fever and a rash	If a pregnant woman gets rubella, her baby may suffer from major birth defects including blindness, brain damage, deafness, heart problems and other serious complications



Who needs the MMR vaccine?

Your child should have been given the MMR vaccine at 12 months of age. Children should get a second dose in Junior Infants. Two doses of MMR vaccine will give your child the best protection.

If your child has never had MMR vaccine before, they should get a second dose 1 month after the first dose. There is an increase in measles infections in Ireland and Europe so the MMR vaccine is important to boost protection against measles infection.

Are there any children who should not get the MMR vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get the MMR vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous MMR vaccine, any part of the vaccine or to neomycin or gelatin which are contained in MMR vaccine.

You should delay getting the MMR vaccine if your child:

- is ill with a high fever
- is on high dose corticosteroids
- is having treatment such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- has any illness or disease that affects their immune system.



Is there a link between the MMR vaccine and autism?

No. Research has shown that there is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

Does the MMR vaccine have any side-effects?

Most children have no problem after this vaccine. Side effects are much less common after a 2nd dose of MMR vaccine.

Some children get an area of soreness, swelling and redness where the injection was given. Rarely children may get “mini measles” with a rash and fever 6 to 10 days later. Children may get “mini-mumps” with swelling in the jaw area in the third week after vaccination. These are not contagious.

The 4 in 1 and MMR vaccines are given on the same day and your child will receive one vaccine in each arm.



Your child already received vaccines to protect against diphtheria, polio, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, mumps and rubella as a baby. Immunity to these diseases reduces over time so a booster dose is recommended now to provide additional protection.

Your child's immune system can easily cope with these vaccines. These vaccines are given together to give your child the best protection against these diseases.

How do you get these vaccines for your child?

These vaccines are offered as part of the HSE school immunisation programme. You will receive details and a consent form before your child is vaccinated.

In Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim these vaccines are given by your GP. In these counties you will receive a letter from the HSE asking you to attend your GP when the vaccines are due.

Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines?

As a precaution, it is advised that for children in this age group, the COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine are separated by 14 days.

How can your child prepare for vaccination day?

On the day of vaccination, your child should:

- ☐ Eat breakfast
- ☐ Wear a loose fitting short sleeved top
- ☐ Bring his/her immunisation passport to school, if possible.

What happens if your child misses the school vaccination day?

Your child can still get the vaccines. The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised at a HSE clinic or you may be asked to bring your child to your GP for vaccination.

What happens if your child needs a second dose of MMR vaccine?

The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised.

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.

You can also find links to the patient information leaflets for the vaccines at www.hpra.ie. Search for Tetravac (4 in 1), Priorix or MMRVaxPro (MMR) to read the relevant patient information leaflet.

The consent form for vaccines

You need to read and sign the consent form in this pack and return it to the school to make sure your child receives the vaccines in school.