

Welcome to Ireland

In this leaflet you will find information about vaccines for your child. Vaccines help keep your child healthy by protecting them against preventable infectious diseases.

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines protect babies and children from infections that can make them seriously ill. Very young babies are most at risk from these infections, so vaccines are started as early as possible.

In Ireland the vaccine schedule starts at 2 months of age and the recommended vaccines are given over 5 visits to your family doctor (GP) when your baby is 2, 4, 6, 12 and 13 months of age. Vaccines given to babies in Ireland protect them against infections that are common or very serious in Ireland.

2 months	Visit 1	6 in 1+PCV+MenB+Rotavirus 3 Injections+Oral Drops
4 months	Visit 2	6 in 1+MenB+Rotavirus 2 Injections+Oral Drops
6 months	Visit 3	6 in 1+PCV+MenC 3 Injections
12 months	Visit 4	MMR+MenB 2 Injections
13 months	Visit 5	Hib/MenC+PCV 2 Injections

What vaccines are recommended in Ireland?

Children are recommended vaccines to protect them against infections in Ireland that are common in Ireland and that could make them very sick.

What are the differences between the vaccines given in other countries and the vaccines given in Ireland?

Many of the vaccines given in Ireland are also given in other countries. For example, vaccines to protect against Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Measles are offered to children in most countries.

There may be differences in some of the vaccines recommended in Ireland compared with other countries. This is because there may be differences between diseases that are common in Ireland compared to other countries. For example in Ireland we give vaccines that protect children against meningococcal B and C disease. These infections can cause meningitis and septicaemia. These vaccines are not part of the immunisation schedule in some countries. But they are recommended in Ireland to protect children against these very serious infections.

My child had all their vaccines in another country. Why do they need other vaccines now that they are in Ireland?

Because your child is now living in Ireland, they should follow the vaccination schedule from Ireland. The vaccines recommended in Ireland protect children against diseases that are common in Ireland or that can have serious consequences.

Your child should “catch-up” with the vaccines that are recommended in Ireland. They don’t need to repeat vaccines that they already received in another country.

What diseases do these additional vaccines protect your child against?

Rotavirus oral vaccine

Rotavirus is a viral infection which causes diarrhoea and vomiting in infants and young children. Most children will recover at home but some need to be admitted to hospital. Around 880 children under the age of 5 were admitted to hospital with rotavirus infection every year in Ireland before the rotavirus vaccine was introduced. This number has fallen dramatically since the rotavirus vaccine was introduced. Rotavirus vaccine can only be given to babies under 8 months of age.

Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine

The MenB vaccine helps to protect your child from meningococcal B disease. This is a serious bacterial infection which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Meningococcal B causes most of the infections and deaths from meningitis of young children in Ireland. MenB vaccine is not given after the age of 2 years of age.

Meningococcal C (MenC) vaccine

The MenC vaccine helps to protect your child from meningococcal C disease. This is also a serious bacterial infection which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). There may also be other vaccines recommended for your child. Your doctor or nurse will advise you.

What are the side effects of these vaccines?

Side effects after the vaccines should last for a few days only

After men B vaccine your child may develop a fever (high temperature) or may have discomfort, redness and swelling where the injection was given.

What are the side effects of these vaccines?

After men C vaccine your child may have discomfort, redness and swelling where the injection was given or have a fever or be irritable

After rotavirus vaccine your child may have mild diarrhoea. Very rarely they may have tummy pain or develop a rash.

Where can I get my baby vaccinated?

In Ireland family doctors (GP) provide vaccination for children. The practice nurse usually gives babies their vaccines, under the direction of the GP. There may be other clinics organised by the health service to give children vaccines that they need.

How do I make an appointment with a GP?

You will need to find a GP, for information about how to find a GP see information at <https://www2.hse.ie/services/find-a-gp/>

What happens at the vaccination visit?

The Doctor or Nurse will speak to you about the vaccines your baby needs and talk to you about each vaccine. It is important to bring any vaccination record you have for your baby when you go to the vaccination clinic.

Do I have to pay for vaccination?

No. Vaccination is free in Ireland

Are any vaccines recommended for older children?

When children are in school they are recommended vaccines

In Junior Infants (age 5):

The MMR and a booster dose of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough) and Polio vaccines which are given in school

In 1st year of secondary school (age 12)

The HPV, MenACWY (meningococcal ACWY) and a booster dose of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines are given in school

Are any vaccines recommended for adults?

Yes. Adults who have not received some vaccines are recommended to receive them. For example the MMR vaccine that protects against measles mumps and rubella is recommended for adults who have never received this vaccine. Talk to your Doctor or nurse.

I have some questions about vaccination, who can I talk to?

Talk to your GP or your Practice Nurse. If other clinics are organised by the health service to give children vaccines, you can talk to the doctor or nurse at these clinics too.

Where can I find more information?

Visit www.immunisation.ie

