

Childhood vaccinations

If you are a parent or guardian of a child aged one to five years, please check they are up to date with all their childhood vaccinations and come forward if they have missed any.

It is extremely important that all babies and children receive their routine vaccinations at the right time in order to give them the best start in life.

Diseases like smallpox and polio have been eradicated in the UK thanks to vaccines.



Vaccines for babies under 1 year old

Age	Vaccines	
8 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine	<p>The 6-in-1 vaccine is 1 of the first vaccines your baby will have. It's given as a single injection to protect your baby against six serious childhood conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• diphtheria• hepatitis B• Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)• polio• tetanus• whooping cough (pertussis).
	Rotavirus vaccine	<p>An oral vaccine against rotavirus infection is given to babies as part of their routine childhood vaccinations.</p>
	MenB vaccine	<p>The MenB vaccine will protect your baby against infection by meningococcal group B bacteria.</p>
12 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (2nd dose)	
	Pneumococcal vaccine	<p>The pneumococcal vaccine protects against serious and potentially fatal pneumococcal infections. It's also known as the pneumonia vaccine.</p>
	Rotavirus vaccine (2nd dose)	



Vaccines for children aged 1 to 15

Age	Vaccines	
1 year	Hib/MenC vaccine (1st dose)	The Hib/MenC vaccine is a single injection given to one-year-old babies to boost their protection against <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) and meningitis C.
	MMR vaccine (1st dose)	The MMR vaccine protects against three serious illnesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• measles• mumps• rubella (german measles).
	Pneumococcal vaccine (2nd dose)	
	MenB vaccine (3rd dose)	
2 to 10 or 11 years	Children's Flu vaccine (every year until children finish primary school)	The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective. It's offered every year to children to help protect them against flu.
3 years and 4 months	MMR vaccine (2nd dose)	
	4-in-1 pre-school booster vaccine	The 4-in-1 pre-school booster vaccine is offered to children from the age of three years and four months to boost their protection against four different serious conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• diphtheria• tetanus• whooping cough• polio.



MMR vaccine

The MMR vaccine protects against three infections: measles, mumps and rubella. One in 10 children under the age of 5 in England haven't had one or both of their MMR vaccines which means that measles outbreaks are more likely..

Measles can infect around nine out of ten non-immune (those who are unvaccinated or have not previously been infected with the measles virus) people exposed to it and can lead to serious complications. The MMR vaccine is the safest and most effective way for parents and guardians to protect their children against measles, mumps and rubella.

The MMR vaccine is given to babies and young children as part of the NHS vaccination schedule. The first dose is given at one year followed by the second at three years and four months.

Parents or guardians of children who are not up to date with their two doses of MMR vaccine should contact their GP practice to book an appointment. It's never too late to catch up.

Find out more at nhs.uk/MMR

Flu vaccinations

Children aged between six months and two years and with a health condition will be offered a flu jab. All children aged 2-3 years will be offered the nasal spray flu vaccine.

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children causing fever, stuffy nose, dry cough, sore throat, aching muscles and joints, and extreme tiredness. It can last several days or more.

Some children can get a very high fever, sometimes without the usual flu symptoms, and may need to go to hospital for treatment. Serious complications of flu include a painful ear infection, acute bronchitis and pneumonia. Children under the age of five years have the highest rate of hospital admissions due to flu..

It is also important that your child receives their flu vaccine as it will reduce the chance of others in your family, who could be at greater risk from flu, such as grandparents or those with long term health conditions, getting flu from your child.

Find out more at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>.

Covid-19 vaccine

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that clinically vulnerable children aged 6 months to 4 years should be offered a Covid-19 vaccine.

Children with underlying health conditions have a much greater chance of serious illness from Covid-19 compared to children without underlying health conditions and this is why we are extending the invitation for vaccination to your child.

Those who are in clinical risk groups include children with chronic respiratory disease; chronic heart conditions; chronic conditions of the kidney, liver or digestive system; chronic neurological disease; endocrine disorders; mitochondrial disease, and those who have suppressed immune systems because they are having chemotherapy, radiotherapy, have leukaemia or are transplant recipients.

Those children who are eligible should be offered 2 doses of the vaccine, with eight to twelve weeks between the first and second doses.

If your child is identified as being in a clinical risk group, you will be invited to make an appointment for their first dose of the vaccine at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Find out more at <https://leicesterleicestershireandrutland.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/vaccinations/>.