

Immunisation protects against serious diseases, reducing risk for individuals and communities. Find detailed guidance and resources on [NI Direct](#).

## Childhood immunisations

Protecting children from an early age is vital to their health.

- **[For infants and children under 2 years](#)**: Vaccines in this age provide protection against diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, polio, and whooping cough.
- **[For preschool children \(aged 2- 4 years\)](#)**: Children in this age group should receive booster vaccines to strengthen their immunity against serious illnesses.

### MMR vaccine:

- Protects your child against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles).
- Given as a single injection containing three vaccines.
- Schedule: 1st dose: just after your child's first birthday, 2nd dose: at three years and four months old.
- Why it's important: Measles, mumps and rubella can cause severe complications. Early vaccination is critical to keep your child safe. [Click for more information and advice on MMR](#).

## Immunisations for 11-18 year olds

- [HPV vaccine](#): protects against the human papillomavirus, which can lead to certain cancers.
- [Teenage vaccinations 14-18 years old](#): these include boosters and additional vaccines to maintain long-term immunity.
- [Those attending University for the first time](#): First-time university attendees are encouraged to ensure they are fully vaccinated, including protection against meningitis.

## Immunisation during pregnancy

Vaccination during pregnancy helps protect both mother and baby.

- Whooping cough: helps protect newborns from this serious disease. [Leaflet available here](#)
- [Influenza](#): pregnant women are at higher risk from flu complications.
- [Rubella](#): learn about risks of rubella during your pregnancy.
- [Hepatitis B](#): protect your baby from Hep B with timely vaccination.

## Immunisation for over 65s

Vaccinations play crucial role in protecting older adults from age-related health risks.

- [Influenza](#): annual flu vaccines reduce the risk of severe illness.
- [Shingles](#): protects against painful and potentially long-lasting shingles infections.

## Additional public information

### [Vaccine programmes public information](#)

## General professional information

- [Green Book](#)
- [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status](#)
- [PHA immunisation resources for health professionals](#)
- [Childhood immunisation programme: full details](#)
- [Guidance on vaccine handling and storage in Primary Care \(including maintenance of the Vaccine Cold Chain\)](#)
- [Translated immunisation invitation letters](#)

## Childhood immunisation

**Immunisations for infants (aged under 1 year) and children (aged 1-2 years)**

- Includes: Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Hib, MMR, Men B, Men C, pneumococcal, rotavirus, BCG, influenza
- Resources: [Childhood immunisation programme](#)

### **Pre-school immunisations (aged 2-4 years)**

- Includes: Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MMR

### **Immunisations for 12-13 year olds**

- Includes: Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MenACWY, MMR, HPV
- Resources: [Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenagers](#)
- [Factsheet on HPV vaccine for children in Year 9 and 10](#)
- [HPV vaccine training slides 2019 15\\_8\\_19.pptx](#)

## **Specific vaccine information**

### **Meningococcal vaccines (MenACWY and Men B)**

- Resources for MenACWY: [Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenagers](#)
- Resources for Men B: [Meningitis B immunisation](#)

### **Pertussis (whooping cough)**

- Includes: Infants, pre-school aged children and pregnant women
- Resources: [Pertussis \(whooping cough\) immunisation](#)

### **Rotavirus**

- Resources: [Factsheet on rotavirus immunisation](#)

## **Targeted programmes**

### **BCG (tuberculosis)**

### **Hepatitis B**

- Includes: Universal hepatitis B programme and hepatitis B vaccine for at risk babies

- Resources: [Clinical guidelines on hepatitis B](#)

### **Influenza (flu)**

- Includes: Children, adults, pregnant women and healthcare workers
- Resources: [Flu resources for professionals](#)

### **HPV vaccine**

- Includes: Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)

### **Pregnant women**

- Includes: Flu, pertussis, MMR, hepatitis B and syphilis advice

### **Shingles**

- Resources: [Factsheet on shingles vaccination](#)

### **Splenectomy**

- Includes: MenACWY, pneumococcal, flu
- Resources: [Factsheet on splenectomy](#)

### **Travel vaccines (National Travel and Health Network, Travax)**

- [NATHNAC support for those providing health information to people going travelling](#)
- [TRAVAX travel health information](#)

## **World immunisation week 2024**

# **PHA launch competition to mark World Immunisation Week 2024**

To mark this year's World Immunisation Week the Public Health Agency (PHA) has launched a digital creator and poster competition.

### **Year 10 pupils up to college/university student level**

- Competition brief can be viewed here - [Digital Content Creator Competition - Year 10 to College/University level students](#)

*Closing date for submission for the digital creator competition is Friday 31 May 2024.*

*First prize for MMR video £200 and second prize £100 (love to shop vouchers).*

*First prize for HPV video £200 and Second prize £100 (love to shop vouchers).*

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### **Poster competition for P5 to year 9 children**

- Competition brief can be viewed here - [poster](#)

### **Poster competition for P1 to P4 children**

- Competition brief can be viewed here - [poster](#)

*Closing date for submission for the poster competition is Friday 10 May 2024.*

First and second prizes will be awarded to both age groups in the poster competition  
- First prize art set and £20 love to shop voucher, second prize art set.

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