

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](#)

Vaccine type	Information for healthcare professionals
--------------	--

<p>General professional information</p>	<p>Green Book</p> <p>Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status</p> <p>PHA immunisation resources for health professionals</p> <p>Childhood immunisation programme: full details</p> <p>Guidance on vaccine handling and storage in Primary Care including maintenance of the Vaccine Cold Chain</p> <p>Translated immunisation invitation letters</p>
<p>Immunisations for infants (aged under 1 year) and children (aged 1-2 years)</p> <p>Includes: Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B, Hib, MMR, Men B, Men C, pneumococcal, rotavirus, BCG, influenza</p>	<p>Childhood immunisation programme</p>
<p>Pre-school immunisations (aged 2-4 years)</p> <p>Includes: Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MMR</p>	

<p>Immunisations for 12-13 year olds</p> <p>Includes: Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, MenACWY, MMR, HPV</p>	<p>Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenagers</p> <p>Factsheet on HPV vaccine for children in Year 9 and 10</p> <p>HPV vaccine training slides 2019 15_8_19.pptx</p>
<p>MenACWY</p>	<p>Factsheet on MenACWY immunisation for teenagers</p>
<p>Men B</p>	<p>Meningitis B immunisation</p>
<p>Pertussis (whooping cough)</p> <p>Includes: Infants, pre-school aged children and pregnant women</p>	<p>Pertussis (whooping cough) immunisation</p>
<p>Rotavirus</p>	<p>Factsheet on rotavirus immunisation</p>

<p>Targeted programmes</p>	<p>Information for healthcare professionals</p>
<p>BCG (tuberculosis)</p>	
<p>Hepatitis B</p> <p>Includes: Universal hepatitis B programme and hepatitis B vaccine for at risk babies</p>	<p>Clinical guidelines on hepatitis B</p>

Targeted programmes	Information for healthcare professionals
<p>Influenza (flu)</p> <p>Includes: Children, adults, pregnant women and healthcare workers</p>	<p>Flu resources for professionals</p>
<p>HPV vaccine</p> <p>Includes: Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)</p>	
<p>Pregnant women</p> <p>Includes: Flu, pertussis, MMR, hepatitis B and syphilis advice</p>	
<p>Shingles</p>	<p>Factsheet on shingles vaccination</p>
<p>Splenectomy</p> <p>Includes: MenACWY, pneumococcal, flu</p>	<p>Factsheet on splenectomy</p>
<p>Travel vaccines (National Travel and Health Network, Travax)</p>	<p>NATHNAC support for those providing health information to people going travelling</p> <p>Travel health information from TRAVAX</p>

[**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).

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.

[Print](#)