

Monday, 04 September 2023

[Health Protection](#)



## Childhood immunisation

Throughout September 2023, the Public Health Agency (PHA) is running a Living Well campaign in over 500 community pharmacies highlighting the importance of vaccination and the protection provided by the childhood immunisation programme. If you have any queries about any aspect of your child's immunisations, you can call into a participating pharmacy during this time to find out more about the programme. A free information leaflet, *Immunisation protects*, is also available in pharmacies. For any queries after September 2023, please speak to the school nurse or contact your GP surgery.

### Why vaccination is important

After clean water, vaccination is the most effective public health intervention in the world for saving lives, promoting good health and preventing serious illness.

Due to the high number of children receiving vaccinations in Northern Ireland over the past number of decades, many serious childhood infectious diseases are rarely heard of.

Recently, however, vaccination rates have seen a slight decrease. We need vaccination rates to remain high in Northern Ireland to prevent many of these serious diseases returning from parts of the world where they still occur. If this happens, children who are not vaccinated will be at risk from these infections and potentially life-changing complications – even death.

Given the rise in measles cases in the UK and across Europe, the PHA is encouraging all parents and guardians to get their children vaccinated according to the routine childhood immunisation programme.

The measles virus spreads incredibly easily and a fall in vaccination rates is leaving more children vulnerable to infection. The main symptoms of measles are a fever and a rash. But it can cause more serious complications, including meningitis, and an infection can be fatal.

That is why the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is part of routine childhood immunisations. It's particularly important to get children vaccinated before travel as measles may be more common in other countries.

More information can be found in the leaflet: *Measles: Don't let your child catch it*



This resource provides information on childhood immunisation and the school-based vaccination programme.

## Details

Format

2 page A4 PDF

Target group

Parents and schools

## Downloads

**Attachment**

**Size**

[Childhood immunisation.pdf](#) 4.74 MB

## Tags

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