

## Important information about vaccination against

# Rotavirus



Folkhälsomyndigheten

Rotavirus infection is a highly contagious stomach bug that can be serious for young children. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect your child against illness.

Rotavirus infection can cause vomiting and severe diarrhoea that lasts for several days. Young children can lose a lot of fluids and become dehydrated. Sometimes a child may need hospital care. The disease is often most severe for children under the age of two.

Virtually all unvaccinated children develop one or more rotavirus infections before the age of five.



The vaccine is administered in the form of oral drops and tastes sweet.

### The virus spreads easily

Rotavirus is easily transmitted and can be spread via the hands, mouth, pacifiers and toys. Washing hands and other surfaces can reduce the risk of getting sick and spreading the infection, but it is impossible to completely halt the spread of infection. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect small children against rotavirus infection.

### Vaccination protects

Since young children are susceptible to dehydration, protection against rotavirus infection is especially important during the first two years of a child's life. Rotavirus vaccination provides good protection against severe illness.

## THE VACCINATION PROCESS

### Before the vaccination

Tell your child health nurse how your child is feeling right now. Ask questions and let them know if you have any concerns.

### The vaccination

The vaccine is administered in the form of oral drops and tastes sweet. The first dose is administered when your child is six weeks old. The second dose is administered when your child is three months old, and the last dose is administered when your child is five months old. The vaccine can be administered at the same time as other vaccinations.

### Once vaccination is complete

After vaccination, your child may experience mild symptoms similar to rotavirus infection, as the vaccine contains weakened rotavirus. Your child may temporarily have loose stools, gas and stomach pain. In the week following vaccination, pay extra attention to how your child is feeling.

SKYDD  
FÖR LIVET



## What to pay attention to after vaccination

Yet just like any other medication, the vaccine can cause side effects. Most children will have no symptoms at all. Some children will temporarily experience loose stools and possibly stomach pain.

In a very rare side effect known as intussusception, the intestine may develop a blockage. This condition can also affect unvaccinated children.

The risk of your child developing intussusception after vaccination against rotavirus is very small, but it is important that you know how your child may react.

Your child may seem worn out, experience pain, scream or whine, and seem “out of it”. There may be blood or mucus in the stool, and your child may feel nauseous and vomit. The pain may come and go in intervals.

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you should seek medical attention immediately so that the child can receive treatment.

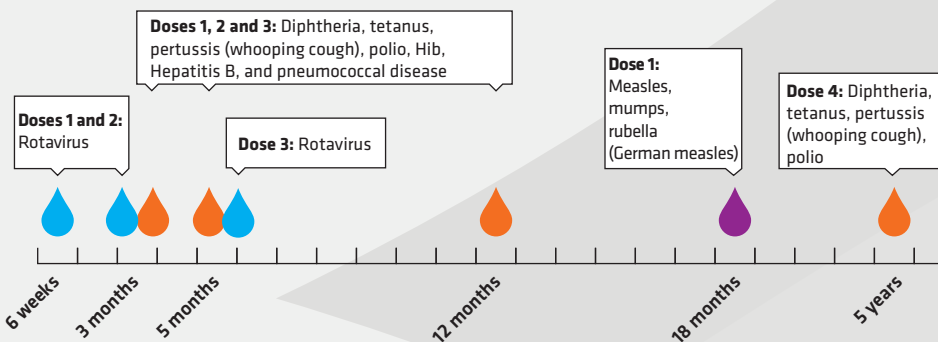
## Do you want more information?

You are always welcome to contact your child health centre.

## SWEDEN'S VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Rotavirus vaccination is part of Sweden's vaccination program. Below is an overview of the vaccinations offered to all children in Sweden in order to prevent serious diseases.

### Child health centre



### SCHOOL

