

What you need to know about

Rotavirus



Folkhälsomyndigheten
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

Rotavirus is a very infectious disease with symptoms including diarrhoea and vomiting. Vaccination is the most effective way of protecting your child against the infection.

Rotavirus can cause vomiting and severe diarrhoea that lasts for several days. Young children can lose a lot of bodily fluids and become dehydrated, and may need hospital care. The illness is often most severe in children under two.

Without the vaccination, most children will get at least one rotavirus infection before the age of five.

The virus spreads easily

Rotavirus is very infectious and can be passed on by hands, mouth, pacifiers and toys. Washing hands and keeping surfaces clean can reduce the risk of illness and of the infection spreading, but cannot stop it spreading completely. Vaccination is the most effective way of protecting young children against rotavirus.

Vaccination is protective

Because young children are susceptible to dehydration, protection against rotavirus is particularly important in a child's first two years. Rotavirus vaccination provides good protection against serious illness.



The vaccine is given as drops into the mouth and has a sweet taste.

HOW VACCINATION WORKS

Beforehand

Tell the children's nurse about your child's current state of health. Ask questions and say if you have any concerns.

The vaccination

The vaccine is given as drops into the mouth and has a sweet taste. The first dose is given when the child is six weeks old. The second dose is given at three months. The vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccinations.

Afterwards

Following vaccination, the child may experience mild symptoms similar to a rotavirus infection, because the vaccine contains a weak form of the virus. The child may temporarily have mild diarrhoea, flatulence and stomach pain. Pay particular attention to your child's health the week following the vaccination.

SKYDD
FÖR LIVET



Things to look out for following the vaccination.

Like any medicine, the vaccine can cause side effects. Most children will get no symptoms at all. Some children will temporarily have mild diarrhoea and possibly stomach pain.

One very rare side effect is a blockage in the intestine, called intussusception. This can happen even if the child has not had the vaccination.

The risk of your child developing an intussusception following vaccination against rotavirus is very small, but it is important that you know what symptoms the child might have.

The child may be very tired, in pain, scream or whimper and seem absent. There may be blood or mucus in the child's faeces, and the child may feel nauseous and vomit. The pain may come and go at intervals.

If your child gets any of these symptoms, you should seek medical attention immediately so that the child can be treated.

Would you like to know more?

Contact your local child health centre or the student health services at your child's school. You can also find out more at:

- Medical advice website 1177.se
- The Public Health Agency of Sweden Folkhalsomyndigheten.se
- The Medical Products Agency Lakemedelsverket.se

THE SWEDISH VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Rotavirus vaccination is part of the Swedish vaccination programme.

This diagram shows the vaccinations that are offered to all children in Sweden in order to prevent serious illnesses.

CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

