

What you need to know about

Vaccination



Folkhälsomyndigheten
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

Every child in Sweden is offered protection against twelve serious illnesses through vaccination. These vaccinations are given at child health centres and at school.

Young children are vaccinated at child health centres until starting primary school. Vaccinations at school are given through student health services.

Some of the illnesses that children are vaccinated against are uncommon in Sweden, but exist in other parts of the world. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect children against these illnesses, which can have serious consequences. These vaccinations for children are free. All vaccinations are voluntary.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS

- ◆ **six weeks**, they will be given their first vaccination, which protects against rotavirus.
- ◆ **three months**, they will be given the second vaccination against rotavirus. They will also be vaccinated against seven other illnesses: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib, pneumococcus and hepatitis B.
- ◆ **five months**, the child will again be vaccinated against seven illnesses given during the three month visit.

◆ **one year**, the child is vaccinated for the third time against the same illnesses as at three and five months.

◆ **one and a half years**, the child is vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella.

◆ **five years**, the final vaccination is given at the children's healthcare centre, a booster dose against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS IN

- ◆ **school year 1-2 (aged 7-9)**, the child will be given the second vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella.
- ◆ **school year 5 (aged 11-12)**, all children are given two vaccinations against the human papillomavirus (HPV) to protect against cancer (for boys, this applies to those born in or after 2009).
- ◆ **school year 8-9 (aged 14-16)**, the child will be given the final vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

AT THE CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE CENTRE

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

Most vaccinations are given by injection, and the prick of the needle may cause discomfort. The nurse will show you how to hold your child during vaccination.

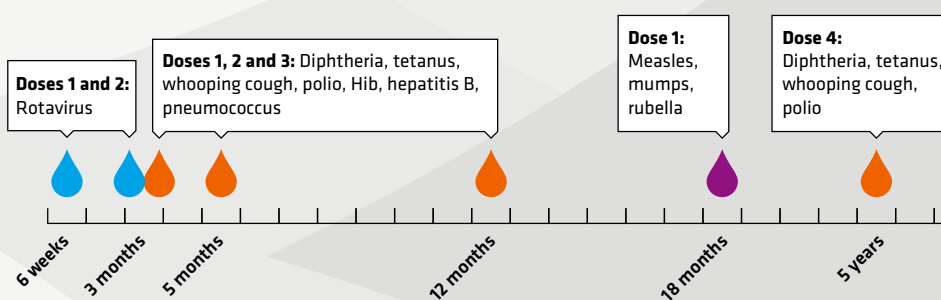
AT SCHOOL

At school, your child will be vaccinated by the school nurse. Talk to the nurse if you or your child have any questions about the vaccinations.

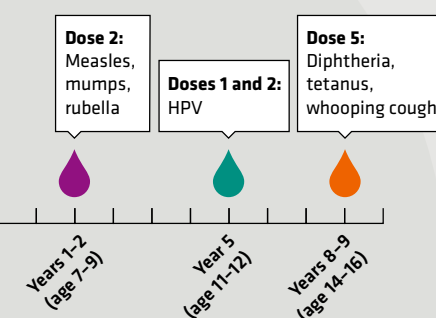
THE SWEDISH VACCINATION PROGRAMME

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

CHILD HEALTH CENTRE



SCHOOL



Illnesses your child is offered protection against

Please see below for more information about the illnesses included in the vaccination programme and that your child is offered vaccination against.

Rotavirus causes diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration in children. In some cases, a child may require hospital care.

Diphtheria is a very infectious and serious nose and throat infection that can cause life-threatening damage to the heart, kidneys and nervous system.

Tetanus is caused by bacteria found in the soil and in the intestines of animals. Children can get tetanus if they are bitten by an animal or through dirty wounds. Tetanus causes muscle cramps and difficulty swallowing and breathing. Tetanus cannot be passed between humans.

Whooping cough is very infectious and causes severe coughing fits and an ongoing cough that can last several months. In babies, whooping cough can be life-threatening.

Polio causes damage to the nervous system that can lead to lifelong paralysis.

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) can cause serious infections, particularly in children under five. Hib can cause meningitis that can be life-threatening or cause permanent damage.

Pneumococcus can cause ear infections and sinusitis in children but also more serious illnesses such as pneumonia, blood poisoning and meningitis.

Measles is very infectious and gives a high fever, a cough and a rash. A child may suffer complications in the form of meningitis, ear infections or pneumonia. Measles can sometimes be fatal.

Mumps is very infectious and mainly affects the salivary glands, but it can also cause complications such as meningitis and encephalitis. Boys may get swollen testicles.

Rubella often causes only a mild infection, but if a pregnant woman is infected there is a big risk of miscarriage or the child being born with serious fetal damage.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is an infection of the skin and mucous membranes. The infection is rarely noticed and usually heals by itself. If the infection does not heal, it can lead to changes in cells and cause cervical cancer or other types of cancer, later in life.

Hepatit B is an infection in the liver. The infection will heal by itself in most people, but sometimes the virus stays in the body and can cause liver damage or liver cancer in the long term. This risk is greatest if a person is infected as a child.

All the vaccinations given through the vaccination programme are registered in the national vaccination register at the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The register allows the vaccination programme to be monitored to ensure it is working as it should.

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

