



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

New in the National Immunisation
Programme from 2024

Protection against *the rotavirus*



Vaccination against the rotavirus will be available to children born on and after 1 January 2024.

What is the rotavirus?

The rotavirus causes an inflammation in the gastrointestinal system. It often occurs in young children. Children get a fever, (severe) diarrhoea, and they become nauseous and throw up.

Contagious

The rotavirus is very contagious. It is found in the stool of infected people. The virus can be transmitted to the toilet seat, tap or doorknob, and also on children's toys. This is how the virus ends up on hands and spreads.

Hospitalisation

Children can become dehydrated from prolonged or severe diarrhoea, and will have to be hospitalised. Every year, this happens to about 3,500 children. About 5-6 children die of the rotavirus every year.

Existing vaccine

The rotavirus has been around for a while, and the vaccine against it has been used in more and more countries since 2006. In those countries, the number of hospital admissions has declined significantly.

Drops

The vaccine is given orally by putting liquid drops in the child's mouth. This will happen at the Well-Baby Clinic. Children will receive the vaccine around the age of 6-9 weeks, and again around the age of 3 months.

Side effects

As with every vaccine, there may be side effects. Children may feel a little unwell, or have a little bit of diarrhoea. This will be shorter and less serious than the effects of the rotavirus. There may be other, rare side effects, which are listed on the website of the National Immunisation Programme. Serious side effects are very rare. Contact your doctor if your child becomes very ill after vaccination.

If you have questions, or want to read this text in a different language, go to:
www.rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en/vaccinations/rotavirus
or scan the QR-code.



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