



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

Protect your child *with vaccinations*



Most children on Bonaire are vaccinated against infectious diseases.

The vaccinations given on Bonaire are the same as in the National Immunisation Programme in the Netherlands. Bonaire works closely with RIVM, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment.

What are infectious diseases?

Infectious diseases are caused by bacteria and viruses. These diseases are contagious – some more so, some less so. In very rare cases, an infectious disease progresses to the point that you could be permanently disabled, or even die. The purpose of the National Immunisation Programme is to prevent those serious complications.

Why are vaccinations so important?

Vaccinations help your body build resistance against pathogenic viruses and bacteria. That will protect you from becoming seriously ill and developing complications. It will also prevent you from infecting other people. If not enough children are vaccinated, bacteria and viruses can spread, making many children sick in a very short time.

The immunization program on Bonaire

Every country in the world offers vaccinations to children. Each country has its own vaccination schedule. On Bonaire, vaccinations are offered against the following thirteen infectious diseases:

Diphtheria

Several countries in South America have been seeing cases of diphtheria since 2016. Diphtheria is a serious throat infection. The bacteria often damage tissue, such as the skin or lungs. Before a vaccination against diphtheria was available, many children died from it.

Whooping cough

Whooping cough (pertussis) causes violent coughing fits that can persist for months. This is specifically dangerous for babies. Whooping cough in infancy can lead to exhaustion and brain damage. They can even die as a result. Vaccinated children are less likely to become seriously ill from the disease. Vaccination against whooping cough is effective in reducing the risk, but it does not completely eliminate the possibility of infection, and does not provide lifelong protection. You can be vaccinated against whooping cough during your pregnancy. If you do that, your baby will then be protected against the disease from day 1. The vaccine is available starting from the 22nd week of your pregnancy: the 22-week vaccination.

Tetanus

Tetanus leads to violent muscle spasms. Without treatment, tetanus is fatal. Tetanus is not contagious. That means that you cannot catch it from another person. A child can get tetanus if they have been bitten by a pet or other animal, or if street refuse gets into an open wound.

Polio

Polio can cause permanent paralysis of the legs, arms and/or respiratory muscles.

Hib disease

The Hib bacterium causes serious infections such as blood poisoning (septicemia), meningitis, epiglottitis, pneumonia or inflammatory arthritis.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver. If the disease becomes chronic, hepatitis B can cause atrophy of the liver and liver cancer.

Pneumococcal disease

Pneumococci are bacteria which can cause blood poisoning (septicemia), serious pneumonia and meningitis. Children can also lose their hearing as a result of the infection. The vaccine is effective against the most common types of pathogenic pneumococci.

Mumps

Mumps is an infection that primarily affects the salivary glands. That is why children with the mumps develop swelling in their cheeks and neck. It sometimes leads to meningitis. In boys, mumps can cause infertility.

Measles

Measles is a rash disease involving high fever and an itchy, painful rash. It is often accompanied by ear infection, and sometimes leads to pneumonia or encephalitis that can have fatal results. Measles is highly contagious.

Rubella

Rubella is also a rash disease, but the resulting illness is much less serious than measles.

During pregnancy, however, rubella poses a danger to the unborn baby. A baby exposed to rubella before birth could be born with serious defects. To prevent pregnant women from getting infected, boys are also vaccinated against rubella.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a disease that starts with a mild fever and listlessness in children. Then a skin rash develops in the form of small red bumps with blisters. The rash can be very itchy. Sometimes it leads to serious complications, such as encephalitis.

Meningococcal disease

Meningococcal disease is caused by various types of meningococcal bacteria.

Children with meningococcal disease can develop meningitis or blood poisoning (septicemia), which could suddenly become life-threatening. Even if children recover, they can have lifelong problems with hearing loss, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. If they develop septicemia, an arm or leg may sometimes have to be amputated.



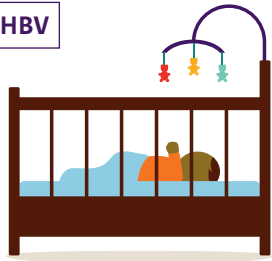
Which vaccines will my child receive on Bonaire?

 Vaccination 1
 Vaccination 2

3 months

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV

Pneu



5 months

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV

Pneu



11 months

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV

Pneu



14 months

MMR-V

MenACWY



*2nd MMR vaccination is given at 18 months, or at 4 or 9 years

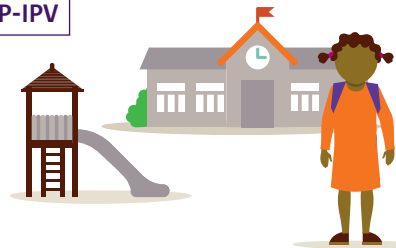
18 months

MMR-V



4 years

DTaP-IPV



9 years

HPV 1

DT-IPV

9,5 years

HPV 2



14 years

MenACWY



Extra DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV vaccination at 2 months old

A child receives an extra vaccination at 2 months old if the mother was not vaccinated against whooping cough (pertussis) during pregnancy, and in case of exceptional circumstances. The doctor will discuss this with you.

List of abbreviations

D	Diphtheria	IPV	Poliomyelitis	Pneu	Pneumococcal disease	R	Rubella	V	Varicella (chicken pox)
T	Tetanus	Hib	Haemophilus influenzae type b	M	Mumps	MenACWY	Meningococcal types ACWY		
aP	Pertussis (whooping cough)	HBV	Hepatitis B virus	M	Measles	HPV	Human papillomavirus		



HPV

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of viruses that can cause various types of cancer in men and women, such as in the mouth, throat, penis, anus or cervix. Eight in ten people will have an HPV infection one or more times over the course of their lives. When children turn ten, they receive an invitation for the HPV vaccination. The best protection is by vaccinating children before they contract the virus.

When will my child receive the vaccinations?

Infants receive their first vaccination when they are between 6 and 9 weeks old. Their immune system is already capable of a vigorous response at that age. After that, a child usually receives two injections per visit. The vaccinations are administered in the thigh or upper arm. If you get the 22-week vaccination against whooping cough, that means one less injection for your baby. In that case, your baby will then receive the first vaccination at 3 months*.

* This does not apply in all cases. The pediatrician or nurse will discuss this with you. See also rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/22weeksprik

My child is ill. Can my child be vaccinated as scheduled?

If your child is ill or on medication, please consult the pediatrician or nurse. Sometimes it is advisable to postpone the vaccination for a little while.

Side-effects of vaccinations

Side effects are unpleasant for the child and the parents. Some parents are concerned about the side-effects. Vaccinations often have side-effects because they activate the body's immune response. These side-effects are generally mild and will go away on their own. Most of the side-effects start on the day that the vaccination is administered. The side-effects of the vaccination against mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) do not appear until five to twelve days after the injection. The most common side-effect is a mild fever shortly after the vaccination. The spot where the child gets the shot may become red or puffy.

Tips in case of side-effects

- In case of fever, make sure that your child drinks enough fluids.
- Very young infants may be comforted by cuddles and distractions.
- If a child is in pain, a paracetamol suppository might help. Check the information leaflet to see how much your baby is allowed to have.

- Avoid touching the arm or leg where the vaccination was administered if possible. Touching the area can make the pain worse.

If you are concerned because your child is very sick, or if your child is still listless or feverish after a few days, you can call your family doctor for advice.

Would you like to know more?

The website of the National Immunisation Programme provides detailed information about various infectious diseases, vaccinations and side-effects. Website: <https://rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/english>.





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Committed to *health and sustainability*