



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

Vaccinations for children at age 4

National Immunisation Programme



Protect your child against serious infectious diseases

At the age of 4 years your child will receive another vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus and polio (DTaP-IPV). This booster shot will protect your child from catching these diseases and developing complications, and prevent your child from infecting others. That is also very important for children who have not been vaccinated (yet), for example because they are too young, or cannot be vaccinated due to illness.

An obvious choice

Nearly all children in the Netherlands are vaccinated against serious infectious diseases, so these diseases almost never occur here anymore. Still, it is important to vaccinate, since the diseases will come back if we stop vaccinating.





**“Part of
healthy
parenting”**

Nicole (41) sees vaccination as a healthy and logical choice

Even before her daughter Eva (4) was born, it was clear: just like her older brother and sister, Eva would receive all her vaccinations as scheduled. According to Nicole and her husband Bart, the immunisation shots are part of safe, healthy parenting. One of her parents' cousins had polio, so Nicole is well aware of how important vaccination is. She believes that it is good for her own family, and for children in other families. Nicole is sure that vaccination is a healthy and logical choice.

Read the story of Nicole and her daughter Eva at rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/nicole

A healthy start in life

We consider it important for children to have a healthy start in life – as infants and toddlers, and as they grow older. That is why countries worldwide offer vaccinations to children. Each country has its own vaccination schedule. These schedules are very similar.

Safe and reliable

Before a vaccine is approved for use, it is tested extensively, just like any other medicine. Vaccines are not allowed to be used until it is absolutely clear that the vaccine works and is safe. Medicines for children are subjected to even stricter safety checks. Vaccine safety is also closely monitored while

they are used – not just in the Netherlands, but all across the world.

Side-effects

Vaccinations can have side-effects, because they activate the body's immune response. These side-effects are generally mild and will disappear spontaneously. The most common side-effect is a mild fever (temperature around 38 degrees) shortly after the vaccination. In addition, the injection site may be a bit red or swollen. Are you concerned because your child is very sick, or still listless or feverish after a few days? Please contact your family doctor.

Reporting a side-effect

You can report a side-effect of a vaccination to the doctor or nurse who administered the vaccination. They will pass on the report of the side-effect to the Lareb Pharmacovigilance Centre. You can also report the side-effect to Lareb yourself via www.lareb.nl. Side-effects can also be reported via the website at rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/english.

Why these injections?

Some infectious diseases require multiple vaccinations to achieve effective protection against the disease. In some cases, that is because a vaccine is less effective after several years have passed. It takes several booster shots to make sure that your child is effectively protected against diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus and polio.

Vaccine and information leaflet

Do you want to know about the composition of the vaccines that your child will receive? The information leaflets for the various vaccines are available on the website of the National Immunisation Programme at rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/bijsluiter.

My child is ill

If your child is ill or on medication, please consult the physician or nurse at the Well-Baby Clinic. Sometimes it is advisable to postpone the vaccination for a little while.

Diphtheria

Diphtheria is a serious throat infection. Before vaccinations were introduced, diphtheria was a major cause of death in children.

Whooping cough

Whooping cough (pertussis) causes violent coughing fits that can persist for months. Whooping cough can lead to exhaustion and brain damage, or even death. You could 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. That is why whooping cough still occurs in the Netherlands.

Tetanus

Tetanus leads to violent muscle spasms. Without treatment, tetanus is fatal. Tetanus is not contagious. That means that it cannot spread from person to person. A child can get tetanus after a bite from a pet or other animal, or if dirt from the street gets into an open wound.

Polio

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

Talking to youth healthcare services

The National Immunisation Programme website at rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/english provides much more information about various infectious diseases, vaccinations and side-effects. Unfortunately, people also find

lots of incorrect information online. If you have questions about vaccinations and diseases, you can always contact the physician or nurse at your Well-Baby Clinic, the local Centre for Youth and Families, or the Municipal Public Health Services (GGD) in your region.

Which vaccines will my child receive?

☐ Vaccination 1
☐ Vaccination 2

3 months

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV

PCV



5 months

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV

PCV



11 months

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV

PCV



14 months

MMR

MenACWY



4 years

DTaP-IPV



9 years

DT-IPV

MMR



10 year (Vaccination 2: half a year later)

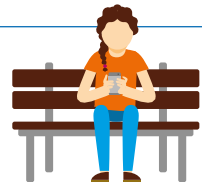
HPV

HPV



14 years

MenACWY



Extra DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV vaccination at the age of 2 months

A child receives an extra vaccination at the age of 2 months if the mother was not vaccinated against whooping cough (pertussis) during pregnancy, and in case of special circumstances. The doctor or nurse at your well baby clinic will discuss this with you.

Abbreviations and what they mean

D Diphtheria
T Tetanus
aP Pertussis (whooping cough)
IPV Poliomyelitis

Hib Haemophilus influenzae
type bHBV Hepatitis B
PCV Pneumococcal disease
M Mumps

M Measles
R Rubella
MenACWY Meningococcal ACWY
HPV Human papillomavirus



My child is afraid of injections

Injections can seem scary and unpleasant to some 4-year-old children. This is completely normal. Explain that the injection only takes a moment and

that it can hurt a bit. Make sure that your child eats something before it gets the injection. The doctor or nurse can give you tips on how to make the injection as comfortable as possible.

Information about the vaccination

RIVM, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, coordinates the National Immunisation Programme in the Netherlands. RIVM informs parents about the vaccinations provided in the National Immunisation Programme and sends the immunisation invitations. Local youth healthcare services carry out the National Immunisation Programme and give the vaccinations.

When your child has received a vaccination, youth healthcare services record the details of the vaccinations in the reporting system and on your child's vaccination certificate. If you agree, youth healthcare services will share the data with RIVM. The data that is shared are vaccination details and your child's personal details. The doctor or nurse from the youth healthcare services asks your permission to share data between the youth healthcare services and RIVM.

This permission is important. RIVM can only properly perform various tasks if it knows exactly which vaccinations your child has received. For example, RIVM uses the data to send you a reminder for your child's vaccinations at the right time. In addition, RIVM can give you a copy of your child's vaccination certificate if you request it.

RIVM also uses the information for ongoing quality assessment of the National Immunisation Programme and for vaccine monitoring. Finally, RIVM uses the data to calculate how many children in the Netherlands have received all their immunisations. If there is an outbreak of an infectious disease, it is very important to know how many people are already protected. Then RIVM can assess whether the disease will be able to spread and whether measures are necessary.

For more information, see rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/jouw-toestemming.

Vaccinations outside the National Immunisation Programme

There are also vaccines available that are not included in the National Immunisation Programme. You or your child can also receive these vaccinations. However, since they are not part of the programme, you will have to pay for them yourself. If you would like to get these vaccinations, you can contact your family doctor or a vaccination centre. You cannot get these vaccines at the Well-Baby Clinic. Go to rivm.nl/vaccinaties to read more about the vaccines available in the Netherlands. Are you planning a trip abroad with your child? Check with the travel clinic or GGD vaccination office if any additional vaccinations are necessary.

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