



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

Vaccinations for children at age 9

National Immunisation Programme



Protect your child against serious infectious diseases

At the age of 9 years, your child will receive vaccinations against mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) as well as diphtheria, tetanus and polio (DT-IPV). These two vaccinations provide effective, long-lasting protection against these diseases. Another booster shot against whooping cough, pneumococcal disease and haemophilus influenzae is no longer needed.

An obvious choice

Nearly all children in the Netherlands are vaccinated against serious infectious diseases, so these diseases almost never occur in the Netherlands anymore. Still, it is important to vaccinate, since the diseases will come back if we stop vaccinating. These booster shots will protect your child from catching these diseases and developing related 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.

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.

“Children’s safety comes first”



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

Love, fun and safety: these are the guiding principles for how Inge and her husband Rogier want to raise their three children – Yanne (8), Mischa (6) and Noah (3). Vaccination is simply part of the package, just as much as school, swimming lessons, and healthy foods. They believe that it is good for their own family, and for children in other families. Vaccinations are important to keep everyone safe and protected.

Read the story of Inge and her three children at rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/inge.

If a child is in pain or seems to be feeling unwell, paracetamol might help. Serious side-effects are very rare. 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 be reported via the website at rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/english.

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 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 lead to death. Measles is highly contagious.

Rubella

Rubella causes a rash, 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 can be born with serious defects.

To prevent pregnant women from getting infected, both girls and boys are vaccinated against rubella.

Diphtheria

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

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.



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	Hib	Haemophilus influenzae	M	Measles
T	Tetanus	type bHBV	Hepatitis B	R	Rubella
aP	Pertussis (whooping cough)	PCV	Pneumococcal disease	MenACWY	Meningococcal ACWY
IPV	Poliomyelitis	M	Mumps	HPV	Human papillomavirus



Why these injections?

Some infectious diseases require multiple vaccinations to achieve effective protection against the disease. The DTaP vaccine is effective for several years, so a booster vaccination is needed. For the MMR vaccine, a booster is needed because the first vaccination that children receive at the age of 14 months, does not provide sufficient protection for all children.

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/bijsluiters.

My child is ill

What if you received an invitation, but your child is ill? Ask the doctor whether the vaccination needs to be postponed. If your child is using medication, it is also advisable to check with the doctor in advance.

Talking to youth healthcare services

The National Immunisation Programme website at <https://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.

My child is afraid of injections

Injections can seem scary and unpleasant to some 9-year-old children. This is completely normal. Talk to your child before you go. 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 help your child relax. 9-year-old children may occasionally faint from the stress. If your child has fainted because of stress before, please talk to the doctor or nurse before your child gets the injection. It is very important that the doctor or nurse knows about this.

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](https://www.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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