

The National Immunisation Programme (NIP) in 2021-2022

Surveillance highlights

Vaccination coverage

The national vaccination coverage for nearly all vaccinations in the NIP decreased slightly



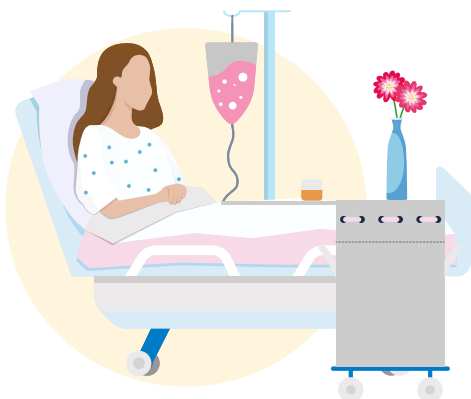
with 1% to 2%



The decrease probably results from the fact that some vaccinations were given later than normally scheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccination coverage for vaccinations offered before 2 years of age is between 92% and 93%.

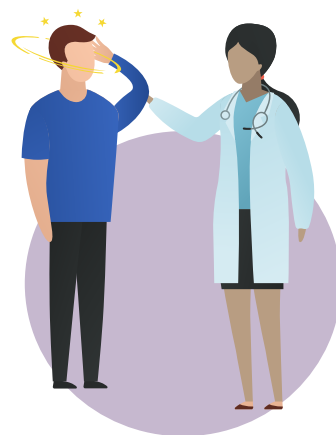
Disease surveillance

Most diseases covered by the NIP were reported less often than before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is probably because of the COVID-19 control measures.



Side-effects

In 2021, 1,462 reports were made of a total of 4,636 possible side-effects following immunisation with a vaccine that is part of the NIP (which does not include COVID-19 vaccinations). This is comparable to 2020.



Pathogen surveillance

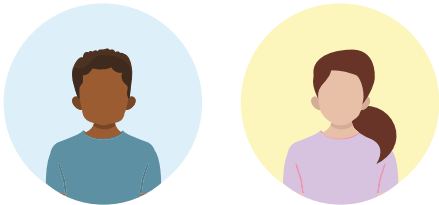
In 2021, there were more infections with *Haemophilus influenzae type b* than there were before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is striking because for the other diseases covered by the NIP, the number of patients decreased after the COVID-19 control measures were implemented. RIVM investigates what may have caused this increase. The vaccine appears to be as effective as in previous years.



New in the NIP

Changes regarding HPV vaccination

Since February 2022, **girls and boys are invited for HPV vaccination**, and they are offered this vaccine **in the year they turn 10**. Simultaneously, a catch-up campaign started for boys and girls younger than 18, who have not been (fully) vaccinated against HPV.



COVID-19

Immune surveillance

In November 2021, **more than 90%** of the Dutch population aged 12 and over had **antibodies against SARS-CoV-2**, the virus that causes the disease COVID-19. For the majority of this group, these antibodies **resulted from vaccination**.



New advices and decisions

Rotavirus vaccination

The State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport decided in September 2022 to add rotavirus vaccination to the NIP.



Flu vaccination for pregnant women

In September 2021, the Health Council advised to invite more risk groups for **the seasonal flu vaccination**, include **pregnant women**.

Vaccine effectiveness

COVID-19 vaccines offer very effective protection against serious illness. Vaccinated people that do become ill are less contagious than people who have not been vaccinated.

Side-effects of COVID-19 vaccinations

The safety of COVID-19 vaccinations is monitored continuously. Most side-effects last a few days at most. Severe side-effects are rare.