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

Vaccinations for your child

GGD Bonaire



The Vaccination Program on Bonaire

Almost the same vaccinations are administered on Bonaire as those in the National Immunisation Programme in the Netherlands. Bonaire works closely together with the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

What diseases are we talking about?

Every country in the world offers vaccinations to children. Each country has its own vaccination schedule. On Bonaire, vaccinations are given against the following 14 infectious diseases:

RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) can cause respiratory infections. Young babies are especially at risk of becoming seriously ill. They could have shortness of breath or develop pneumonia.

Rotavirus causes infections of the stomach and intestines. It is contagious and very common among young children. Children develop a fever and (severe) diarrhea, and will vomit.

Diphtheria has been reported in some South American countries since 2016. This is a severe throat infection. It is very contagious. Before the introduction of the vaccine, many children used to die from diphtheria.

Pertussis, also known as **whooping cough**, causes severe coughing fits that can last for months. Whooping cough is especially dangerous for babies. They can become exhausted and suffer brain damage. Some babies even die from the disease.

Pregnant women are offered a vaccination against whooping cough from week 22 of their pregnancy. The baby will then be protected against whooping cough from birth.

Tetanus causes muscle spasms. Without treatment, tetanus is fatal. Tetanus is not contagious. A child can get tetanus if they are bitten by a pet or other animal, or if soil or dirt gets into a wound.

Polio is also known as infantile paralysis. It can lead to permanent paralysis of the legs, arms, or respiratory muscles.

The **Hib bacterium** causes serious infections like sepsis, meningitis, epiglottitis, pneumonia, or arthritis.

Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver. Sometimes the virus stays in your body. If this happens, you can get liver cancer.

Pneumococci are bacteria that can cause sepsis, severe pneumonia, and meningitis. Children can also become deaf as a result. The vaccine is effective against the most common types of pneumococci.

Mumps is an infection that affects, among other things, the salivary glands. This is why children with mumps can develop swelling in their cheeks and neck. Sometimes it leads to meningitis. Mumps can sometimes make boys less fertile, making it more difficult for them to have children later in life.

Measles is a viral disease accompanied by a high fever and a skin rash. It often leads to an ear infection. Sometimes children develop pneumonia or encephalitis, which can be fatal. Measles is very contagious.

Rubella is a disease that causes a rash, but is less serious than measles. This disease is dangerous to unborn babies during pregnancy. The baby could then be born with serious abnormalities.

Chickenpox is an illness that begins with a mild fever and lethargy in children, followed by a spotty red skin rash. This rash can be very itchy. Sometimes this disease has serious complications, like encephalitis.

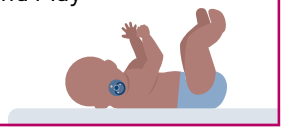
Meningococcal disease can cause meningitis or sepsis. It can also be fatal. The vaccination in the National Immunisation Programme protects against various meningococcal bacteria: A, C, W, and Y. The vaccine does not protect against meningococcal disease type B.

HPV is the abbreviation for human papillomavirus. The virus can cause various forms of cancer in men and women. Examples are cancer of the mouth, throat, penis, anus, and cervix. Eight out of ten people will get infected with HPV once or several times in their lifetime.

What vaccinations will my child receive on Bonaire?

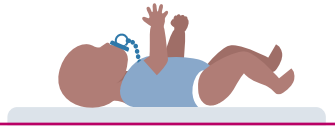
Injection against RSV

- **0 to 2 weeks** for babies born from June to March
- **0 to 2 months** for babies born in April and May



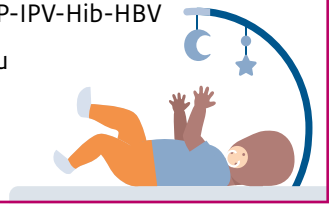
6-9 weeks

- Rota
- (DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV)*



3 months

- Rota
- DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV
- Pneu



5 months

- DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV
- Pneu



Meaning abbreviations

RSV	Respiratory syncytial virus
Rota	rotavirus
D	diphtheria
aP	whooping cough (pertussis)
T	tetanus
IPV	polio
Hib	*Haemophilus influenzae* type b
HBV	hepatitis B
Pneu	pneumococcal disease
M	mumps
M	measles
R	rubella
V	varicella ('chickenpox')
MenACWY	meningococcal disease types A, C, W and Y
HPV	human papillomavirus

Questions? Ask at the well-baby clinic (Sentro Akseso) or go to rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en

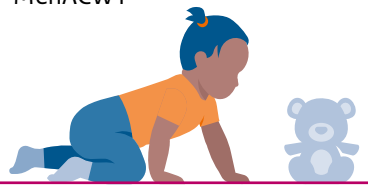
12 months

- DTaP-IPV-Hib-HBV
- Pneu



14 months

- MMR-V
- MenACWY



18 months

- MMR-V



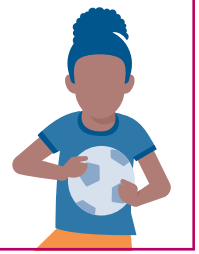
5 years

- DTaP



9 years

- HPV
- 2nd vaccination 6 months later



14 years

- DT-IPV
- MenACWY



* Only if the mother was not vaccinated against whooping cough during pregnancy (maternal whooping cough vaccination). This extra vaccine dose is also given in special circumstances. The doctor or nurse from the well-baby clinic will discuss this with you.

What are infectious diseases?

Infectious diseases are caused by viruses and bacteria. They are contagious, with some of them being highly contagious. Very rarely, an infectious disease can be so severe that it leaves you with a permanent disability or causes death.

The goal of the National Immunisation Programme is to protect your child from these diseases.

How do vaccinations work?

A vaccination helps your child's body build resistance to viruses and bacteria that cause illness. It means that your child will not get sick, or not that severely. The chances of your child infecting others are also very low. This is important for children who have not (yet) been vaccinated. For example, because they are too young or cannot be vaccinated due to an illness.

Children usually get two injections per visit. The injections are given in the child's thigh or upper arm.

Side effects

Vaccinations can cause side effects. When this happens it is because vaccinations trigger the body's immune response. All these side effects are mild and will go away on their own.

The most common side effect is a mild fever (temperature around 38 degrees) shortly after vaccination. The area where the injection was given may also become slightly red or swollen. After the rotavirus vaccine, your child may experience diarrhoea, stomach pain, or vomiting.

Serious side effects are rare. Contact your GP if you are worried about side effects. For example, because your child is very sick, or is still lethargic or feverish after a few days.

The injection against RSV hardly ever causes side effects. If your baby develops a fever after the injection, contact your GP.

Here are a few tips to help relieve any pain:

- For young babies, cuddling and distractions can help if they are lethargic.
- If a child is in pain or seems to be feeling really unwell, paracetamol can help. Check the package leaflet for the dosage.
- It is best to avoid touching the arm or leg where the vaccine was given as far as possible. Touching can make the pain worse.

Good to know

Injection against RSV
From June 2026, babies can get an injection against RSV. On Bonaire, the RS virus is most common from June through to March. The virus is less common only in April and May. When your baby gets the injection will depend on the season when he or she is born. Babies born from October through to March will get the vaccination within two weeks after birth. Babies born in April and May will get the vaccination in late May or early June.

Rotavirus vaccination
The rotavirus vaccine is not an injection, but an oral vaccine: a liquid in a small tube. Children receive the vaccine in the form of droplets in their mouth.

My child is ill. What should I do?

If your child is ill or taking medication, talk to the doctor from the well-baby clinic or nurse. It may be a good idea to postpone the vaccination for a while.

Would you like to know more?

- You can find more information about the various diseases, vaccinations and side effects at **rijksvaccinatieprogramma.nl/en**
- At **vaccinaties.steffie.nl/en**, you can find information about childhood vaccinations that is written in simple language.





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