

14 Routine vaccinations

OVERVIEW



Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, rubella and tuberculosis are common but serious childhood illnesses; they can kill or cripple children for life. Vaccines protect infants and children from getting and spreading these diseases.

What you need to KNOW

- ➔ Vaccines against the diseases listed above are given to infants after birth and in the first year of life; some additional doses are given at a later stage according to a national immunization schedule.
- ➔ Vaccines protect infants and children from getting and spreading diseases.
- ➔ Every infant needs to be vaccinated against these diseases as part of the routine infant vaccination schedule. Speak with your local health authority about vaccination ages and learn your national immunization schedule.
- ➔ Age groups to be vaccinated may vary in some countries.

Key messages

- ➔ All vaccinations should be completed in the first year of a child's life.
- ➔ A child who is not vaccinated is more likely to die of diseases.
- ➔ Measles is one of the biggest threats to children and causes the deaths of many of those not vaccinated against it.
- ➔ It is safe to vaccinate a sick child who has a cough, cold, diarrhoea, fever or malnutrition.
- ➔ Pregnant women need at least two tetanus vaccinations before giving birth.

Use community message(s): 14

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What you can DO

- ↳ Check with your health authorities for the specific vaccination schedule in your area.
- ↳ Know when vaccinations are available in your area (health facilities and outreach sessions).
- ↳ Know where mothers should go to get vaccinations.
- ↳ Find out why mothers do not bring their children to the vaccination clinics.
- ↳ Know all the families with babies under 1 year of age and visit them once a month.
- ↳ Explain to pregnant women that they must visit the health worker for check-ups and to receive two doses of tetanus vaccine before delivering the baby.

Vaccination schedule

Age	Vaccine
Birth	BCG and polio
6 weeks	1st DTP*, Hep B, HiB and polio**
10 weeks	2nd DTP, Hep B, HiB and polio
14 weeks	3rd DTP, Hep B, HiB and polio
9 months	Measles

DTP = Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccination

BCG = Vaccine for tuberculosis, given by injection

Hep B = Hepatitis B

HiB = Haemophilus Influenza

* Some countries may use DTap (a newer version of DTP).

** Some countries may use polio vaccination (IVP), which is given by injection.

(Schedule may vary in different countries – contact your Ministry of Health for more information.)