NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Primary school immunisation pack for parents and carers

August 2026

Welcome to your child's immunisation guide

As your child prepares to start school, it's important to make sure they are protected from preventable diseases. This guide will help you understand what vaccines your child needs, when to get them, and why they are so important. Vaccines are safe and help keep your child and others around them healthy.

Why are vaccines important?
Vaccines help protect your child from serious illnesses like measles, whooping cough, and polio. These diseases can cause severe illness, hospitalisation, and even death. Vaccines are your child's best defence!

How do vaccines work?
Vaccines help your child's immune system fight off diseases. When your child gets a vaccine, their body learns to recognize and fight specific infections. If they ever encounter these diseases in the future, their body will know what to do to protect them.

What to expect after vaccination
Most children will have mild side effects, like:

- Fever
- Sore arm or redness at the injection site.

These side effects usually go away on their own within a few days. They are much milder and easier for your child to handle than the symptoms these illnesses can cause.

UK Immunisation Schedule for Children (2026)

The following is the UK National Immunisation Schedule for children, designed to protect them from serious diseases. Vaccinations are given at different ages to ensure your child is protected throughout their early years.

It's never too late to start or catch up on any missing vaccinations to protect your child, contact your GP to discuss.

2 months old
- DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (6 in 1 vaccine) (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B)
- MenB (Meningococcal B)
- Rotavirus (Drops in Mouth).

3 months old
- DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (6 in 1 vaccine) (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B)
- MenB (Meningococcal B)
- Rotavirus (Drops in Mouth).

4 months old
- DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (6 in 1 vaccine) (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B)
- PCV (Pneumococcal vaccine).

12 months old
- MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (Chicken Pox))
- PCV (Pneumococcal vaccine)
- MenB (Meningococcal B).

18 months old

- MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (Chicken Pox))- second dose
- DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB (6 in 1 vaccine) (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B).

2 years old

- Flu Vaccine
- For best protection given as a gentle spray up the nose every year (for children aged 2 and up).

3 years and 4 months old (pre school)

- DTaP/IPV (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio).

Check your child's vaccination status

If your child hasn't received all the listed vaccines above or you are unsure, it's never too late to catch up! Contact your GP practice to check if your child's vaccinations are up to date.

If your child was vaccinated in another area or outside the UK Please take your childs vaccination records to your GP to enable them to update their records you can also email a copy to your local school immunisation team. Include your child's name, date of birth, GP surgery, and postcode and we will ensure their records are updated.

Liverpool School Immunisation Team:
0151 295 3833 mcn-tr.vacandimms.team@nhs.net

Sefton School Immunisation Team:
0151 247 6130 mcn-tr.seftonimmunisationteam@nhs.net

Knowsley, Halton and St Helens schools
0151 351 8805 mcn-tr.schoolimmunisations@nhs.net

Annual primary school vaccinations

Each year, all children in primary school are offered the flu vaccination.

Information in alernative langauges and formats can be found on the government website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters

How the flu vaccine will be given
For most children, the flu vaccine it is given in school as a nasal spray. If the nasal spray is not suitable for a child, an injection can be given instead, usually into the muscle in the upper arm. Flu vaccinations are free.

Porcine free vaccine option:
The nasal vaccine contains traces of a highly processed form of gelatine (porcine gelatine), For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products, an injected flu vaccine is available as an alternative.

Children with a health condition
Children with certain health conditions, even if well managed, are at higher risk of severe complications if they get flu. It is especially important that they are vaccinated every year.

What to expect after flu vaccination:
Mild side effects: Some children might experience mild side effects, such as a runny nose, mild fever, or tiredness. These side effects are generally short lived.
Protection: It takes about two weeks for the vaccine to fully protect your child from the flu.

How to arrange the flu vaccine:
The flu vaccination is offered in schools. Each September, you will receive a link by email or text message to complete the consent form. Please complete a form for each child you have in school, even if you do not wish your child to receive the recommended flu vaccination. This will help prevent further correspondence from the Immunisation Team.

If you would like to discuss your child's vaccinations, require an interpreter, or need assistance completing the consent form, please contact your local Immunisation Team.

For further information, please visit:
ww.merseycare.nhs.uk/imms

Our patients matter

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust listens and responds to patients and their carers to help improve the services we deliver. If you have any comments, compliments or concerns you can speak with a member of staff or contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) and Complaints Team.

Phone: 0151 471 2377
Freephone: 0800 328 2941
Email: palsandcomplaints@merseycare.nhs.uk

To request this leaflet in an alternative format or language, please speak to a member of staff.

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