

Routine Vaccinations for Children during Coronavirus

Answering frequently asked questions from parents and carers about routine childhood vaccinations during coronavirus

What are “routine” childhood vaccinations?

These are the NHS vaccinations to protect your child from serious childhood illnesses. Across the world vaccines prevent 2-3 million deaths from diseases such as meningitis, whooping cough and measles

The [NHS vaccine schedule](#) tells you which vaccines your child needs and when

They are all **free** as part of the National Vaccination Programme

My child or someone in the family has symptoms of coronavirus – should we still go for the vaccination?

No – if anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, or if you are [self-isolating](#), then you should stay at home

When you finish self-isolating and you don't have any symptoms of coronavirus, reschedule the vaccination as soon as possible

I am worried about bringing my child to the GP. What should I do?



GPs and health clinics, have put in safety measures to make vaccination appointments safe e.g. having a separate entrance from other appointments

If you are worried about taking your child for their vaccination appointment, call your GP surgery to talk through your concerns

My child has a fever – should they still go for their vaccination?

No, if your child has a fever or is feeling unwell, they should not be vaccinated

Reschedule for when they are better



What are the risks from having vaccinations?

Vaccines are very safe. Most side effects from routine childhood vaccinations are very mild. Your child might feel a bit unwell and have a sore arm for 2-3 days

Vaccinations are constantly monitored and tested across large groups of people. Research studies involving hundreds of thousands of people shown that vaccinations do not cause autism

The risks of not getting childhood vaccinations far outweigh the risk from vaccinations. This NHS video helps to answer: [are vaccines safe for my child?](#)

With cases of measles increasing quite steeply across Europe, and in England, it's especially important your child is up to date with their vaccines. Measles can lead to complications like pneumonia and brain inflammation and in rare cases can be fatal





What would happen if lots of children stopped getting vaccinations?



The more children who receive their vaccinations, the better protection the whole community has. This can play a big role in protecting children who can't have vaccinations because of underlying conditions

If the number of children getting vaccinations falls, diseases will spread more easily. Please help us spread the word and encourage vaccine take up in your area

My older child was due to have vaccinations at school, will these happen?



School vaccinations are being rescheduled, they'll take place throughout the year in schools and community clinics. If you think your child has missed a vaccination at school check with your GP, they should be able to offer it

These vaccinations are not as time-critical as vaccinations for pre-school children so rescheduling has not put your older child at risk

Does my child need to self-isolate if they have diarrhoea and no other coronavirus symptoms after their Rotavirus vaccination?

Like all vaccinations, the Rotavirus vaccination can cause side effects such as diarrhoea. This is usually mild and does not last long

If your child has no other symptoms of coronavirus then they don't need to isolate. If you are concerned about their health at any time, call your GP or dial 111. If you need urgent help call 999 or go to your nearest A&E

What do I do if I have missed a routine vaccination?

If your child's routine vaccinations have been delayed or missed, call your GP practice to book an appointment as soon as possible

Should children still have vaccinations if someone in the family is particularly vulnerable?

Yes, it is really important that children in a vulnerable household keep up to date with their routine vaccinations



If your child, or someone you live with is vulnerable, call your GP practice before your appointment. Your GP will be taking extra steps to keep you safe

What if my child gets a fever post-vaccination? Do we need to self-isolate?

Unless your child has other coronavirus symptoms you don't need to self-isolate



Fever can be expected after any vaccination, it's most common after the Meningococcal B (Men B) vaccination given at 8 and 16 weeks old

If a vaccination causes a fever it will probably start roughly six hours after the vaccination and normally settles within two days

If your child still has a fever 48 hours after the vaccination, or at any time if you are worried, call your GP or dial 111. If you need urgent help call 999 or go to your nearest A&E

Will my child's vaccinations “overwhelm” their immune system and make them more susceptible to catching coronavirus?

No – your child only uses a tiny part of their immune system to respond to a vaccination. Since they were born your child's been in contact with millions of germs every day and their immune systems can withstand that. Vaccinations will not overload their immune system and do not make them more likely to get other infections

If your child gets an infection immediately after they have been vaccinated, or if they had an infection already but were not showing symptoms when they had their vaccination, their immune system will still be able to fight the infection



Is it safe to wait for my child to have their vaccinations?

No – delaying routine childhood vaccinations can put your child at risk from serious diseases

Routine vaccinations for babies and pre-school children are still happening despite coronavirus. These vaccinations need to be given on time. Your child will be ready for coming out of lockdown and protected from infectious illnesses

I still have questions or worries about getting my child vaccinated – what should I do?

Contact your practice nurse, GP or health visitor. They will be happy to talk to you about vaccinations and answer any of your questions.



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