

Vaccination program – the Czech Republic

Vaccination program in the Czech Republic is based on the legislation of the Ministry of Health, under its responsibility for the setting up of the immunization schedule and the selection of vaccines for the regular, mandatory vaccination.

Six groups of vaccination we can differentiate in the Degree and its amendments:

- 1) Regular vaccination (mandatory)
- 2) Special (mandatory)
- 3) Irregular
- 4) In case of injury, accident and incurable wounds
- 5) International travel
- 6) On request.

The regular and special vaccination schedule is set at the national level and applies to the whole country. There is no local decision power enable to modify it.

Vaccination is planned, organized and controlled by epidemiologists (MD) of Public health sector.

Vaccines for mandatory vaccination are given free of charge for the target population (paid by the government).

By the reason of contraindication, the administration of other registered vaccines is possible to use – these vaccines are free of charge as well. In other cases vaccines (on request) must be paid (financial coverage from personal funds).

Most of the vaccinations are administered in the private sector, mainly by pediatricians. BCG vaccine is administered by neonatologists (1st dose – during the stay in maternal clinics after delivery), the next doses by pneumophthizeologists. Vaccination against tetanus and rabies in the case of injury, accidents, and incurable wounds are performed in clinics and „out-patient departments“. All these vaccinations are free of charge, paid by the health insurance companies.

Special vaccination is performed also by clinicians, GPs, epidemiologists (except of pediatricians).

Irregular vaccination - Even in the case of the outbreak justifying a local campaign, the decision is taken at the ministry level, in liaison with regional health authorities.

In the framework of vaccination on request, other registered vaccines (not included in the national vaccination program) are offered (e.g. meningococcal, chickenpox, VHA, tick-borne encephalitis). All these vaccines are covered from personal funds.

Members of the National Immunization Advisory Committee of Ministry of Health are MOH staff, epidemiologists, pediatricians, SIDC staff, and infectologists.

Vaccines are not available and sold on private market.
There are no vaccines locally produced.

There is the homogeneous coverage across sub-national areas (approx. 95%). Vaccination coverage is measured by administrative method, organized and performed by the

epidemiologists of Local and Regional Public Health Services. At the national level is coverage completed by MOH.

National web site including data on vaccinations (vaccination coverage) is not available in our country, but information about vaccines and vaccination is available – see the next addresses. The Czech schedule is available at <http://www.ssi.dk/euvac>, <http://www.szu.cz> and <http://www.szu.cz/cema/hpcema.htm>

Czech Republic

Summary chart

The Czech Childhood Vaccination Schedule							
	DTwP	Hib	HepB	OPV	MMR	BCG	T
4 days - 6 weeks						Yes	
9 -12 weeks	Yes	Yes	Yes				
10 weeks – 14.5 months				Yes ¹			
13 - 16 weeks	Yes	Yes	Yes				
17 - 20 weeks	Yes	Yes					
9 months			Yes				
14.5 - 26.5 months				Yes ²			
15 months					Yes		
18 - 20 months	Yes	Yes					
21 - 25 months					Yes		
2 years						Yes ³	
5 years	Yes						
11 years						Yes ⁴	
12 years			Yes ⁵				
13 years				Yes			
14 years							Yes ⁶

¹ Two doses of OPV. First and second dose administered every March and May

² Two doses of OPV. Third and fourth dose administered every March and May

³ BCG is recommended if tuberculin skin test (PPD test) is negative

⁴ Re-vaccination of tuberculin negative children

⁵ Three doses of HepB vaccination are given to those previously unvaccinated children in 0-1-6 month schedule.

⁶ Re-vaccination recommended 10-15 years thereafter

This summary chart is adapted from the Immunization Guidelines for the Czech Republic, issued by the Ministry of Health. This information on the childhood vaccination schedule in the Czech Republic may be accessed through the National Institute of Public Health website: <http://www.szu.cz> (in Czech) and <http://www.szu.cz/cema/hpcema.htm> (in English).

