

## **Estonia**

The immunization programme is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Affairs for the setting up of the immunization schedule, the regulatory, the implementation of the immunization activities and procurement of vaccines. Several major partners have specific responsibilities in the immunization field: Health Protection Inspectorate – supervision of implementation of immunization programme forecasting/planning of vaccines, national stock and distribution of vaccines through the Health Protection County Departments, cold-chain supervision, coverage) and State Agency of Medicine – vaccine quality, AEFI registration. All information and analyses generated by these authorities are brought to the Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Estonia is following the National Immunization Schedule confirmed by Ministry of Social Affairs 18.08.2005. The Schedule is set up at the national level and applies to the whole country. According to the Estonian legislation, all vaccinations under the Immunization Schedule are free of charge, also free of charge and financed through the budget are vaccinations: adults against diphtheria and tetanus, population bitten by animals against rabies. Ministries (Defence, Environment, Agriculture, Inner Affairs etc) are funding the immunization of their own risk groups. All other vaccinations are the responsibility of an individual and should be covered by him/herself.

Routine childhood immunization starts with BCG and HepB at maternities. Children are registered at this occasion and mothers are given an individual vaccination card for further use at the health facility. Vaccinations by the Immunization Schedule are delivered by a combination of general practice and for children older than 7 years of age by school health professionals.

There are no mandatory vaccinations.

The data of immunization under Immunization Schedule is summarised as population of children age up to 17 years, number of doses administered for each vaccine and age-specific coverage for each vaccine. This summary coverage information is reported annually by GPs and school health professionals to the Health Protection County Departments and then to the

national level Health Protection Inspectorate for measuring the vaccine coverage at local and national levels.

Information with the recommendations for the general population, for the specific target groups and individuals is available at: Health Protection Inspectorate web site <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/> and Ministry of Social Affairs web site <http://www.sm.ee/>. Information includes Immunization Schedule and estimated coverage for the vaccinations under the Immunization schedule.

**Table 1: Immunization Schedule in Estonia, 2006**

Age	BCG	DTP	OPV	dT	Hib	Hep B	MMR
12 hours						Yes	
1-5 days	Yes						
1 month						Yes	
3 months		Yes	Yes		Yes		
4,5 months		Yes	Yes		Yes		
6 months		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
1 year							Yes
2 years		Yes	Yes		Yes		
7 years			Yes	Yes			
12 years				Yes			
13 years						Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes
17 years				Yes			
>18 years				Yes <sup>2</sup>			

Legend:

1 – Hepatitis B vaccine administered (schedule 0,1,6) only for children who was not immunized at birth

2 – For adults booster every 10 years

