

## IRELAND

The current Irish immunisation programme is delivered by a combination of general practice administered vaccines and school health administered vaccines. Neonatal BCG is administered by community medical officers. General practitioners administer the primary childhood immunisations in the first and second year of life. These vaccines are provided free of charge by the National Health Service Executive who also pay the family doctors for their delivery. The vaccine is purchased centrally by the National Immunisation Office of the Health Service executive and there is a National Cold Chain Service which delivers vaccine to general practices and hospitals.. There are no mandatory vaccinations. The booster of DTaP/IPV and second dose of MMR are given in most areas at school entry in the school by the community medical officers (in some areas the family doctors also give the school booster). The booster Td at 11-14 years is also given by community medical officers in the schools but at the present is unevenly provided.

General practitioners provide influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for the elderly and at risk groups. While the vaccine is provided free of charge, patients who do not have a general medical services(GMS) card must pay for the administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccination. The GMS card is available to approximately 40% of the population on a means test and also to all over 70 years of age.

Hepatitis A and B vaccines are only recommended for at risk groups

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Physicians advises the Department of Health on the use of all vaccines and advises the appropriate immunisation schedule. This guidance can be found on the Health Protection Surveillance Centre web site at

<http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Vaccination/Guidance/>

The Irish schedule is available at the National Immunisation Office website <http://www.immunisation.ie/en/ChildhoodImmunisation/Timetable/>

The schedule is also available at <http://www.ssi.dk/euvac/> on the Euvac site as below:

### The Irish Childhood Vaccination Schedule

	<b>DTaP</b>	<b>Hib</b>	<b>IPV</b>	<b>MenC</b>	<b>MMR</b>	<b>BCG</b>	<b>dT</b>
Birth-1 month						Yes	
2 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
4 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
6 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
12-15 months		Yes <sup>1</sup>		Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes		
4-5 years	Yes		Yes		Yes		
10-14 years						Yes <sup>3</sup>	

11-12 years

Yes<sup>4</sup>

11-14 years

Yes

The uptake of vaccines is monitored by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and reports are published on the HPSC website. <http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Vaccination/ImmunisationUptakeStatistics/> . These uptake reports cover BCG , the primary immunisations and the first dose of MMR only at present.

Influenza vaccine uptake is measured routinely by direct returns only in those who have a GMS card in the over 65 year old group.

### **Recent changes in Ireland**

Due to the recent increase in Hib vaccine failures in young children in Ireland a catch –up programme of a Hib booster in children in all children aged 1, 2 and 3 years has been undertaken from December 2005 to May 2006. A booster Hib dose will be added to the current 2,4 and 6 month schedule at 12 months. In addition the National Immunisation advisory committee has advised changing Men C from a 2,4 and 6 month schedule to a 2, 4 and 12 months schedule.

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