

LUXEMBOURG

The immunisation program in Luxembourg is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health for the setting up of the immunisation schedule, the promotion of vaccination, the regulatory and organizational aspects, the evaluation of vaccine coverage, pharmacovigilance as well as the purchase of vaccines.

A scientific body, the High Committee of Public Hygiene (Conseil Supérieur d'Hygiène) advises the Ministry of the relevance of the introduction of new vaccines into the schedule.

Recommended Immunisation Schedule in Luxembourg 2006

VACCINES

Age	BCG	Diphtheria tetanus	Polio myelitis	Pertussis (<i>acellular</i>)	Hib	Hep. B	Pneumo coccus ⁴	MMR	Meningo coccus C	Influenza
Birth						X ¹				
2 months ²		X	X	X	X	X	X			
3 months ²		X	X	X	X	X	X			
4 months ³		X	X	X	X		X			
12 months ²		X	X	X	X	X				
13 months									X	
15-18 months								X		
5- 6 years		X	X	X				X		
12 years						X Catch up				
15-16 years		X	X	X						
EVERY 10 YEARS		X	X	X						
> 65 years										X

1. Only for children born to HBsAg+ mothers
2. Combined hexavalent vaccine
3. Combined pentavalent vaccine
4. Pneumococcal heptavalent conjugate vaccine

The schedule concerns all age groups but most vaccines are directed towards infants or young children. The schedule is set at the national level and applies to the whole country.

There is no obligatory vaccination, but all the officially recommended vaccines are directly purchased by the Ministry of Health and offered free of charge to the population.

The vaccinations are performed by private practitioners, mainly paediatricians for the childhood vaccines and GPs; the direct vaccine supply of the physicians is organized by the Health Directorate.

Vaccines which are not offered free of charge by the Ministry of Health can be purchased in pharmacies on medical prescription but have to be paid out of pocket. There is no vaccine production in Luxembourg.

Every 5 years, the Public Health Institute of the Free University of Brussels (Belgium) performs a survey measuring the vaccination coverage in children in Luxembourg.

The vaccination coverage is excellent across the whole country (>90-95%) except for influenza: only 56% of the persons aged >65 are vaccinated. A law of 4 July 2000 introduced a compensation mechanism by the State for heavy side effects related to officially recommended vaccinations.