

POLAND

Polish Immunisation Programme includes:

1. Mandatory Immunisation Programme,
2. Mandatory Immunisation Programme for Risk Groups,
3. Recommended Immunisation Programme.

Immunisation Programme is established as national policy by the Ministry of Health and General Sanitary Inspectorate with cooperation of an - Sanitary-Epidemiology Board (*Rada Sanitarno-Epidemiologiczna*). The Board is an advisory group and consists of: epidemiologists, paediatricians, infectious disease physicians, microbiologists and sanitary inspection members. The Programme is published at the beginning of the year as a directive Ministry of Health approved by the General Sanitary Inspectorate. Vaccines listed as mandatory are paid by the Ministry of Health, and the costs of the immunizations are paid by the National Health Fund (payer of health services in Poland). Mandatory vaccines are given in practices/hospitals/clinics contracted with the National Health Fund (patients don't need to pay for it). However recommended vaccines and immunizations need to be paid by patients individually, by employers or from individual insurance funds. Vaccines are also available on the private market (then costs fully covered by patients).

Mandatory Immunisation Programme is listed in table 1.

Mandatory Immunisation Programme for Risk Groups is addressed for people from special risk groups, after exposition or for travellers to endemic regions. This Programme includes: Hep B (occupational, clinical or epidemiological risk, ex. close contacts with people infected), *Haemophilus Influenzae B* (epidemiological risk, ex. large families, children's home), D, D Td, or DT (diphtheria, individual epidemiological risk, ex. close contacts with people infected), Ty or TyT (typhus, epidemiological risk), rabies (after exposition), tetanus (after exposition, epidemiological risk, ex. after exposition).

List of vaccines from Recommended Immunisation Programme includes:

- Hep B (occupational, clinical risk),
- Hep A (travellers, occupational risk),
- MMR (not vaccinated, girls/woman with occupational risk),
- influenza (occupational, clinical or epidemiological risk),
- tick borne encephalitis (travellers, occupational risk),
- *Haemophilus influenzae b* (children after 2 months not covered by mandatory immunization),
- diphtheria & tetanus (people after 19 years - single doses for previously vaccinated & whole schedule for not covered by immunization),
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (children after 2 years, adults after 65 years, and adults from risk groups, ex. immuno-compromised, diabetes, and conjugated vaccine for children between 2 months and 2 years or for children aged 2-5 years from risk groups, ex. children's homes)
- *Neisseria meningitidis* (children after 2 years or conjugated vaccine for children after 2 months)

- yellow fever (travellers),
- Varicella (people not infected, children and adolescents immuno-compromised)
- rabies (travellers).

Vaccine coverage is measured through passive system and reported by the General Sanitary Inspectorate (information from vaccinators: vaccine usage and special individual patients' immune records are sent to Sanitary Inspectorate, reports every 3 months and yearly).

The regulations about reporting adverse reactions following immunisation (AEFIs) have same legal validity (Ministry of Health directive). The physician who identifies AEFIs is obligated to fill in special form of AEFIs (pattern in the attachment to the directive) and send it to the practice where the vaccine was given. Next, from this practice another form is sent to The Sanitary Inspectorate (National or Regional), The National Sanitary Inspectorate publishes lists of AEFIs yearly.

Reference web-sites for Polish immunization programmes are:

http://www.mz.gov.pl/wwwfiles/ma_struktura/docs/k_gis_szczepienia_14032006.pdf

Table 1: Mandatory Immunisation Programme in Poland (2006)

	BCG	Hep B	DTP	DTaP	Td	IPV	OPV	Mumps	Measles	Rubella
Birth¹	Yes	Yes								
2 months²		Yes	Yes							
3-4 months³			Yes			Yes				
5 months⁴			Yes			Yes				
6-7 months⁵		Yes								
13-14 months								Yes	Yes	Yes
16-18 months			Yes			Yes				
6 years				Yes			Yes ⁶			
10 years								Yes	Yes	Yes
11 years								Yes ⁷	Yes ⁸	Yes ⁹
12 years								Yes ¹⁰	Yes ¹¹	Yes ¹²
14 years		Yes ¹³			Yes					
19 years¹⁴					Yes					

¹ First 24 hours after birth

² 6-8 weeks

³ 6 weeks after previous doses

⁴ 6 weeks after previous doses

⁵ 6 weeks after previous dose

⁶ Oral vaccine

⁷ Only for girls not covered by immunization previously

⁸ Only for girls not covered by immunization previously

⁹ Only for girls not covered by immunization previously

¹⁰ Only for girls not covered by immunization previously

¹¹ Only for girls not covered by immunization previously

¹² Only for girls not covered by immunization previously

¹³ Only for children not covered by immunization previously

¹⁴ Or the last year of education at school

