

Slovenia

1. The Slovenian immunization programme is under responsibility of the Ministry of Health and is issued each year in the Official gazette. Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for preparation of the draft (proposal) of Immunization programme each year in cooperation with experts from other institutions (paediatricians, infectologists, pulmologists,...). Immunization programme is delivered by public and private sector administered vaccines.

2. Vaccines for childhood and adolescent immunisations are administered by primary care paediatricians (public and private), family physicians or GPs (private and public) and school health physicians.

BCG and HepB for newborns are administered by paediatricians in maternity hospitals. General practitioners and family doctors vaccinate elderly and risk groups against influenza and pneumococcal infections. Some vaccinations (rabies, hepatitis B for adults and risk groups, travel vaccines...) are also carried out through vaccination offices at the Regional Institutes of Public Health. Mandatory vaccines (all childhood vaccinations, vaccination of risk groups...) are given free of charge.

3. The vaccines routinely administered through childhood are shown in the following table which describes the Slovenian Childhood immunisation Schedule. All included vaccines are covered by mandatory regulations. The immunisation programme also specifies vaccines recommended for selected groups of children or for special circumstances (PCV, influenza, chicken pox...)

4. The Slovenian immunization programme determines mandatory and recommended vaccinations for listed groups of people: newborns and children, schoolchildren and adolescents, persons exposed to communicable diseases at their work (vaccination against hepB, TBE...), travellers in international traffic (yellow fever...) and "other groups" (risk groups for hepB, risk groups for influenza and PCV...). The immunisation programme also determines vaccinations in special circumstances (natural disasters, epidemics...).

5. The current childhood immunisation schedule in Slovenia is shown in the table.

Age	BCG	Diphtheria tetanus	Poliomyelitis	Pertussis (acellular)	Hib	Hepatitis B	MMR
Birth	Yes ⁽¹⁾					Yes ⁽²⁾	
3 months		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
4 months		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
5 months		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
12-24 months		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
5-6 years						Yes	Yes
9 years		Yes					
16-18 years		Yes ⁽³⁾					

(1) Recommended to newborn infants of immigrant families coming in last 5 years from countries with a higher prevalence of tuberculosis.

(2) Recommended for infants born to HbsAg positive mothers. Administered in 4 doses (0, 1, 2, 12), starting within 12 hours post-partum simultaneously with HB immunoglobulin.

(3) Only tetanus.

Influenza vaccination is recommended and covered by the insurance for children with listed clinical conditions. Recommendations for influenza vaccination are also covered in Immunization programme under "other groups". Vaccination is recommended and covered by the insurance for elderly (>65) with special clinical conditions and is also recommended for other adults, especially risk groups.

6. The vaccine schedule is set at national level and applies to the whole country. Local health authorities have no decision power to modify it.

7. The Slovenian immunisation programme addresses all vaccines (mandatory by law and recommended) used in our country. There are no other vaccines offered according to local decisions.

8. The Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for centrally purchasing of all vaccines used in Slovenia and also has Cold Chain Service which delivers vaccine to users.

9. There are no vaccines available and sold on private market in Slovenia.

10. There are no vaccines locally produced in Slovenia. All vaccines are bought from foreign vaccines manufacturers.

11. All mandatory vaccinations and some recommended vaccinations (for risk groups) are given free of charge (reimbursed by Health insurance company), all the others are chargeable.

12. Vaccine coverage in Slovenia is very homogeneous in different regions. In the year 2005 it was estimated around 94% for DTaP (the third dose) and for MMR (the first dose) for all 9 health regions in Slovenia. We have no estimates for smaller provinces or districts.

13. Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia (Department for Immunization programme in Communicable Disease Center) is in charge of measuring the vaccine coverage at national level. The same institution is also responsible for collecting reports on adverse reactions following immunisation.

14. On the web site of the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia the updated Slovenian immunization programme can be found, yearly reports on vaccination uptake and coverage and also some recommendations on specific vaccinations.

<http://www.ivz.si/index.php?akcija=kategorija&k=39>