

## VACCINATION OF 0–7 YEAR-OLD CHILDREN



In Finland, vaccination of children is free and voluntary.

Children are vaccinated at a young age, because the resistance they get from their mother fades after a few months and infectious diseases trouble children in particular.

Suffering from diseases that can be avoided with vaccination has decreased, since almost all children in Finland are vaccinated. If children were not vaccinated on a large scale, the occurrence of communicable diseases would increase due to tourism and migration.

# VACCINATION PROGRAMME

## (September 2017)

### Age

6-8 weeks  
3 months  
5 months  
6-35 months  
1 year  
1 1/2 year  
4 years  
6 years

### Vaccination

Rotavirus  
DTaP-IPV-Hib + PCV10 + Rotavirus  
DTaP-IPV-Hib + PCV10 + Rotavirus  
Influenza (annually)  
DTaP-IPV-Hib + PCV10 + MMR  
Chickenpox  
DTaP-IPV  
MMR + chickenpox

### Vaccine

Rotavirus  
DTaP  
IPV (polio)  
Hib  
PCV 10  
  
Influenza  
MMR  
Chickenpox

### Disease

Rotavirus diarrhoea  
Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough  
Polio  
Meningitis, epiglottitis  
Pneumonia, meningitis, middle-ear infection  
Influenza\*  
Measles, mumps, rubella  
Chickenpox

\*Children with an increased risk of being infected, who get the BCG vaccine and the hepatitis B vaccine in the national vaccination programme.

The side effects of the vaccines are quite well known. All children do not have side effects. The side effects are not even nearly as dangerous as the disease and possible consequential diseases. Most of the vaccines contain dead disease agents or parts of these and they rarely cause any symptoms.

The rotavirus vaccine is given by mouth. A few percent of the children may have diarrhoea or loose stools. Children may also have temporary gas disorder, rupture and mild general symptoms such as irritation or fever.

The DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, meningitis and epiglottitis) may cause mild fever, irritation or local redness and soreness within 24 hours after vaccination.

The PCV10 vaccine (a bacterial inflammation caused by the pneumococcal bacteria, f.ex. some cases of blood poisoning, meningitis, pneumonia and middle ear infection) may cause local pain, redness, swelling and hardening at the injection site. It may also cause irritation, tearfulness, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, fever and sleepiness.

The influenza vaccine is generally well tolerated. Slight local reactions are possible. Allergic symptoms are possible for children who are over-sensitive to eggs. Influenza-like symptoms, such as muscle and joint pain and headache are also possible.

The MPR vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella) contains live, attenuated viruses and can cause mild symptoms such as fever, irritation, cough and light rashes. Symptoms occur 5–12 days after vaccination and last for 1–3 days.

The chickenpox vaccine contains live, attenuated viruses and can cause minor symptoms: local symptoms at the injection site (pain, redness, swelling), fever or blisters that look like chickenpox (usually 2–5 blisters).



## TREATMENT OF POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

We recommend that you buy home a fever-reducing medicine before the vaccination. For that purpose you can use paracetamol, which reduces fever and also relieves pain.

We recommend that you give your child a fever-reducing medicine if the fever extends  $38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . If the child has had fever cramps before, give the medicine immediately when the fever starts to rise. Follow the instructions on the package when dosing the medicine.

It is important that a child with fever has enough to drink. In addition, it is good to keep the room cool and to dress the child lightly.