

What you need to know

If your child is unvaccinated



Folkhälsomyndigheten

Is your child unprotected against one or more of the illnesses included in the Swedish vaccination programme for children? If so, there are some important things you should think about in respect of illnesses that can be serious in children.

Talk to healthcare staff

When your child needs medical care, you must always tell staff that your child has not been vaccinated in accordance with vaccination recommendations. They need to know so that they can give your child the right treatment and prevent the spread of infection.

Be aware when travelling

Illnesses such as diphtheria and measles are uncommon in Sweden but may be found abroad. It is important that you read up on what to do when travelling with children. You also need to find out how to get medical care when you are in a country other than Sweden.

Tell your child

There is a greater risk of getting an infectious disease in some situations than in others, for example when travelling abroad or in some workplaces. Your child needs to know what illnesses she or he has not been vaccinated against.

Get in touch

Your child can get any vaccinations they have missed at any time. All children under 18 years of age are offered complementary vaccinations as part of the vaccination programme.

PLEASE NOTE

Dirty wound?

If your child has not been vaccinated against tetanus and gets a dirty wound or is bitten by an animal, you should seek medical attention immediately. Tetanus is a very serious illness and it is essential to get preventive treatment without delay.

Has your baby come into contact with someone with a cough?

If your child is less than six months old and has come into contact with someone with whooping cough, you should seek medical care the same day. Whooping cough is an illness that is very infectious and can be very serious for young children.

Need medical attention?

Telephone first

Some illnesses are very infectious, so you should always call the medical advice line Vårdguiden at telephone number 1177 before going to a hospital or health centre. Staff on duty may need to make preparations to avoid the chance of any infection spreading, for example to other people in the waiting room.

If your child is seriously ill, you should seek medical care immediately. In an emergency, call telephone number 112.



Illnesses your child is offered protection against

Please see below for more information about the illnesses included in the vaccination programme for children and that your child is offered vaccination against.

Rotavirus causes diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration in children. In some cases, a child may require hospital care.

Diphtheria is a very infectious and serious nose and throat infection that can cause life-threatening damage to the heart, kidneys and nervous system.

Tetanus is caused by bacteria found in the soil and in the intestines of animals. Children can get tetanus if they are bitten by an animal or through dirty wounds. Tetanus causes muscle cramps and difficulty swallowing and breathing. Tetanus cannot be passed between humans.

Whooping cough is very infectious and causes severe coughing fits and an ongoing cough that can last several months. In babies, whooping cough can be life-threatening.

Polio causes damage to the nervous system that can lead to lifelong paralysis.

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) can cause serious infections, particularly in children under five. Hib can cause meningitis that can be life-threatening or cause permanent damage.

Pneumococcus can cause ear infections and sinusitis in children but also more serious illnesses such as pneumonia, blood poisoning and meningitis.

Measles is very infectious and gives a high fever, a cough and a rash. A child may suffer complications in the form of meningitis, ear infections or pneumonia. Measles can sometimes be fatal.

Mumps is very infectious and mainly affects the salivary glands, but it can also cause complications such as meningitis and encephalitis. Boys may get swollen testicles.

Rubella often causes only a mild infection, but if a pregnant woman is infected there is a big risk of miscarriage or the child being born with serious fetal damage.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is an infection of the skin and mucous membranes. The infection is rarely noticed and usually heals by itself. If the infection does not heal, it can lead to changes in cells and cause cervical cancer or other types of cancer, later in life.

Hepatitis B is an infection in the liver. The infection will heal by itself in most people, but sometimes the virus stays in the body and can cause liver damage or liver cancer in the long term. This risk is greatest if a person is infected as a child.

FREE OF CHARGE

The vaccinations are free for all children under 18. Once a child has turned 18, any vaccinations must be paid for at a medical centre or vaccination clinic.

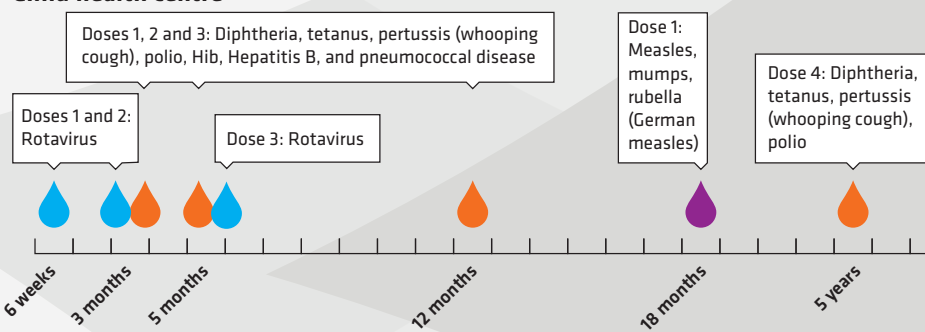
Do you want more information?

You are always welcome to contact your children's health centre or school health service if you have any questions.

THE SWEDISH VACCINATION PROGRAMME

This diagram shows the vaccinations that are offered to all children in Sweden in order to prevent serious illnesses.

Child health centre



SCHOOL

