



CHILDREN WHO HAVE COME TO IRELAND FROM UKRAINE

Information for
Healthcare Professionals on
Catch-Up Vaccination

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It is important that children coming to Ireland from Ukraine are age-appropriately vaccinated to protect them against vaccine preventable diseases.

Measles is circulating in Ukraine and recent outbreaks of polio and measles have been detected. Children may be living in congregate settings such as hotels or reception centres where the spread of infectious diseases is a risk. As a priority every effort should be made to ensure that children are up to date with MMR and polio-containing vaccines.

Children from Ukraine should be immunised according to the Irish immunisation schedule to protect them from diseases that are common in Ireland and may have serious consequences.



Approach to immunisation for a child from Ukraine attending healthcare

- Check immunisation status (pay particular attention to **MMR and Polio-containing vaccines**):
 - Ask the parent or guardian if the child has been age-appropriately vaccinated according to the Ukrainian schedule (see section 2 below)
 - Examine immunisation records (if available)
 - Children and adults coming to Ireland who do not have a documented or reliable verbal history of immunisation, should be assumed to be unimmunised. It should be assumed that undocumented doses have not been received, and the Irish catch-up recommendations for that age should be followed.
- Administer catch-up vaccines for the child's age if required. Children from Ukraine should follow the Irish immunisation schedule because they will be living in Ireland and should be protected from diseases that are common and/or have serious consequences in Ireland.

Childhood Immunisation Schedule in Ukraine

In Ukraine children are offered vaccines to prevent Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae and Hepatitis B before 12 months of age*.

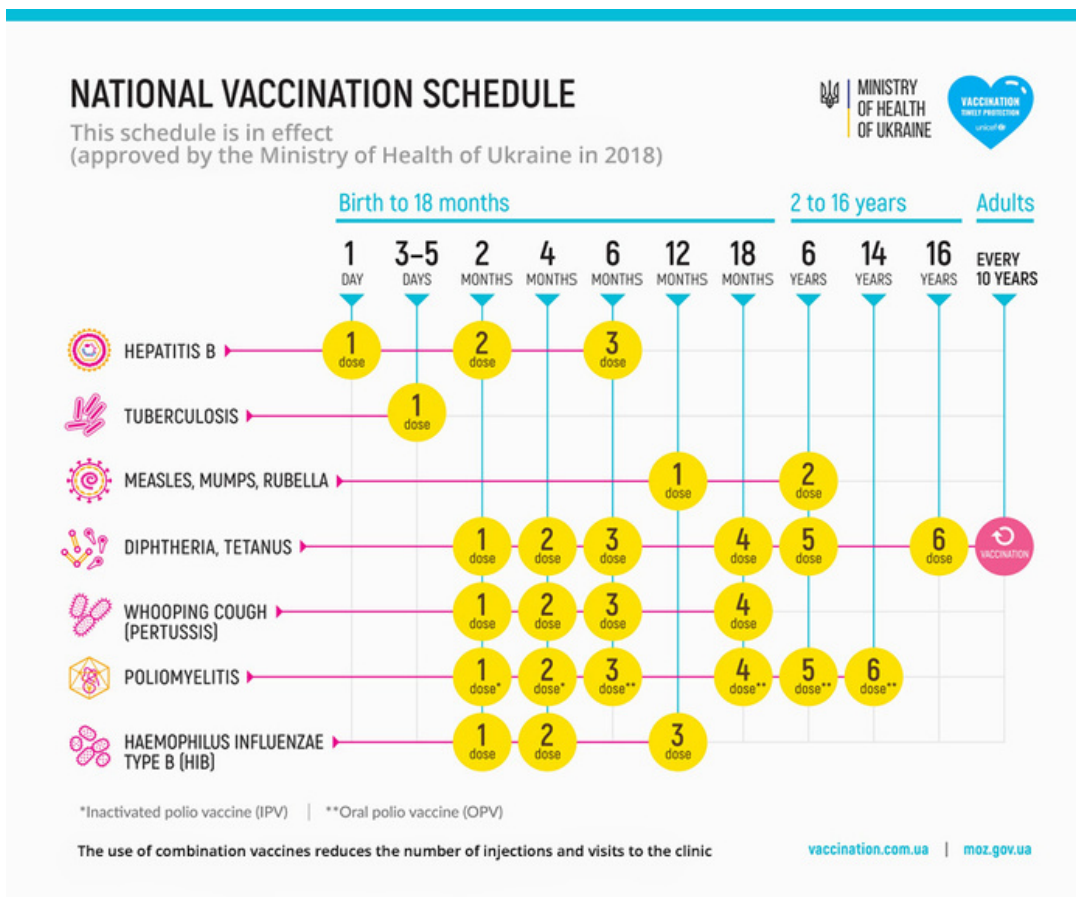
From 12 months of age they are offered MMR and Haemophilus influenzae vaccines.

Please note that vaccine uptake in Ukraine is below 90% for most vaccines.



More information

The immunisation schedule in Ukraine is available [here](#).



*Children may have received other vaccines through private clinics or arrangements,

Catch-up with Irish schedule

Children who are incompletely vaccinated, should catch up to the Irish schedule as per the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland.



More information

The Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland are available [here](#).
Our toolkit with tips on catch-up vaccination is available [here](#).

Before 12 months of age

Before 12 months of age, children from Ukraine need MenB, MenC, PCV13 and rotavirus vaccines (rotavirus vaccine given until 8 months and 0 days only).

They should also receive any other vaccines that they require to catch-up to the Irish schedule.



More information

Chapter 2 of the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland is available [here](#).
Chapter 13 of the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland is available [here](#).

Men B vaccine

- Children who commence Men B vaccination before 10 months of age need 2 doses of Men B vaccine administered 2 months apart (the minimum interval of 4 weeks may be used). They should receive a 3rd dose at ≥ 12 months, at least 2 months after their second dose.
- Children who commence MenB vaccination aged 10 months to < 2 years require 2 doses of Men B vaccine 2 months apart.
- Once a child has reached the age of 2, MenB vaccine is no longer recommended unless the child is in an at-risk group

MenC vaccine

- One dose is needed under 12 months of age.

Rotavirus vaccine (Rotarix®)

- If an infant is late presenting for rotavirus oral vaccine, they can receive their first dose anytime up to the age of 8 months and 0 days. The dose **MUST** be given before the child is aged 8 months and 0 days. In clinical trials the effectiveness after one dose of vaccine ranged from 51% to 60%.
- If an infant is late presenting for a 1st dose of vaccine but is aged less than 7 months and 0 days, the first dose of rotavirus vaccine can be given. The minimum interval between two doses of rotavirus vaccine (4 weeks) may then be used so that the 2nd dose can be given before 8 months and 0 days.
- **Once an infant is 8 months and 0 days of age, then they should NOT receive any doses of rotavirus oral vaccine.**



More information

Frequently Asked Questions are available [here](#).

PCV13 vaccine

- PCV13 vaccine is recommended at 2 and 6 months of age. PCV 13 vaccine is not included in the immunisation schedule in Ukraine. Some children may have received the vaccine under a private arrangement. If they have not been vaccinated, they will need catch-up vaccination for PCV 13

From 12 months of age

From 12 months of age, children from Ukraine will not have received MenB, PCV13 and MenC vaccines as these vaccines are not part of the Ukrainian schedule.

If a child is between 12-23 months of age, MenB (2 doses 8 weeks apart), PCV13 (one dose) and MenC (one dose) vaccines are recommended.

Once a child has reached the age of 2 years, MenB and PCV13 vaccines are no longer recommended or required (unless the child is in an at risk group for meningococcal B or pneumococcal disease).

One dose of MenC vaccine is recommended up until the MenACWY vaccine is offered in 1st year of 2nd level school.

The child should also receive other vaccines that they require to catch-up to the Irish schedule.

Ordering vaccines for catch-up

Catch-up vaccinations can be ordered from the National Cold Chain Service (NCCS).



More information

Order catch-up vaccinations from the NCCS [here](#).

Resources

A toolkit is available from the National Immunisation Office to support GP practices to maximise uptake of childhood immunisation [here](#).

For further information please refer to the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland:

- Catch-up vaccinations [here](#).
- Meningococcal vaccines [here](#).
- Frequently asked questions on Rotavirus vaccine from the National Immunisation Office [here](#).

For further questions regarding catch-up vaccination, please email immunisation@hse.ie

COVID-19 Vaccination

Aged 12 years and older

- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all individuals aged 12 years and older. Vaccines are available through HSE vaccination clinics, participating pharmacies and GPs.
- Individuals who are immunocompromised at the time of vaccination should receive an additional dose to complete their primary vaccination course.
- For information on recommendations for booster doses for this age group, see [Chapter 5a COVID-19](#)

Aged 5 to 11 years

Children aged 5-11 years should be offered primary COVID-19 vaccination which is available through HSE vaccination clinics only. If they are immunocompromised at the time of primary vaccination, an additional dose is also recommended.

For information on recommendations for booster doses for this age group, see [Chapter 5a COVID-19](#)

Aged 6 months to 4 years

Children aged 6 months - 4 years should be offered primary COVID-19 vaccination which is available through HSE vaccination clinics only.



More information

See [immunisation.ie](https://www.immunisation.ie) for details.

Which COVID-19 vaccines are used in Ukraine?

All COVID-19 vaccines used in Ukraine are vaccines that have been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), or by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Note that Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose for children aged 5-11 years is not included in the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Ukraine.

The following vaccines are used in Ukraine:

Table 1: COVID-19 Vaccines used in Ukraine

Vaccine	Approval
Comirnaty® (Pfizer/BioNTech) 30 micrograms/dose	EMA
Spikevax® (Moderna)	EMA
COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen®	EMA
Vaxzevria® (Oxford/AstraZeneca)	EMA
Covidshield® (Oxford/AstraZeneca formulation produced by the Serum Institute of India)	WHO
Coronavac® (Sinovac)	WHO

What is the advice if someone has received a 1st dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine?

Individuals who have partially completed a COVID-19 vaccine course in Ukraine should be offered an EMA authorised COVID-19 vaccine, appropriate for their age group, to complete the primary course.

If a heterologous schedule is being used (i.e. the second dose from a different manufacturer than the 1st dose), the minimum interval between the last vaccine dose and the EMA authorised COVID-19 vaccine is 28 days.

What is the advice about the booster dose if someone has received a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine?

If an individual has completed a primary vaccination course in Ukraine (with vaccines as detailed in **Table 1**), they are considered fully vaccinated. They should be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine appropriate for their age group, in accordance with the recommended intervals for booster doses for their age-group.

What is the advice about the additional dose if someone who is immunocompromised has received a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine?

If an individual has had a primary vaccination course in Ukraine (with vaccines as detailed in **Table 1**) they should be offered an additional dose appropriate for their age-group, in accordance with the recommended intervals for the additional dose for their age group.



More information

Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 vaccination outside Ireland is available [here](#). See [immunisation.ie](https://www.immunisation.ie) for further details.

