

Tdap and MenC booster vaccines

Information for parents of children
in First Year of second level school



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Information for parents of children in First Year of second level school.

Your child needs to be protected from infectious diseases. Read this leaflet to find out about the vaccines they are being offered.

Tdap Booster Vaccine

What is the Tdap booster vaccine?

The Tdap booster vaccine protects your child against whooping cough (pertussis) as well as tetanus and diphtheria.

Your child should have received vaccines protecting them from these diseases at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. Your child should also have received a booster dose in Junior Infants at 4 to 5 years – the 4-in-1 vaccine. Tdap is a booster vaccine for First Year students.

How serious are these diseases?

All these infections are serious diseases that can lead to death.

	Common symptoms	Possible complications
Diphtheria	Sore throat Fast heart rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing difficulties• Paralysis• Heart failure• Death
Tetanus	Painful muscle spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convulsions• Lockjaw• Death
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Irritating cough that sounds like a whoop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing difficulties• Heart and lung failure• Death



Why are children in First year being offered this vaccine?

Immunity to diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough reduces over time so a booster dose is recommended now to provide additional protection.

Are there any children who should not get Tdap vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get Tdap vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they had a very severe reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine containing diphtheria, tetanus or whooping cough.

You should delay getting the Tdap vaccine if your child is ill with a high fever.

MenC Booster Vaccine

What is the MenC booster vaccine?

The MenC booster vaccine protects your child against meningococcal C infection.

Your child should have received MenC vaccine protecting them from this disease at 2, 4 and 6 months of age.

What is meningococcal C disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness which can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining around the brain), septicaemia (blood poisoning) and lead to death.

The onset of meningococcal disease can be very quick. The symptoms include fever, stiff neck, headache, joint pains, and a rash.

Meningococcal disease may occur at any age but the highest rate of disease occurs in children under 5 years of age, especially children under one year of age. The next highest risk group are young people aged 15-19 years.

Why are children in First year being offered this vaccine?

Immunity to meningococcal disease reduces over time so a booster dose is recommended now to provide additional protection.

Are there any children who should not get MenC vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get MenC vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they had a very severe reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous MenC vaccine.

You should delay getting the MenC vaccine if your child is ill with a high fever.

Do Tdap or MenC vaccines have any side-effects?

Most children have no problems after Tdap or MenC vaccines. A small number of children may have an area of soreness, swelling and redness where the injection was given. They may get a headache, nausea or a fever. If this happens you can give them paracetamol or ibuprofen. You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection site.

Can Tdap and MenC vaccines be given at the same time?

The Tdap and MenC vaccine can be safely given at the same time.

Can Tdap or MenC vaccines be given at the same time as HPV vaccine?

The Tdap and MenC vaccines can also be given at the same time as the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine (which is given to girls).

If you give consent for your child to have these vaccines your child may receive a vaccine in each arm.

How do I get these vaccines for my child?

These vaccines are offered to students in the First Year of second level school as part of the schools immunisation programme. You will receive details and a consent form before your child is vaccinated.

Will my child get a record of this vaccination?

Your child will receive an immunisation record card when the vaccinations have been completed. If you already have an immunisation record card this can be filled in if your child brings it to school on the day of vaccination.

What happens if my child misses the school vaccination?

Your child can still get the vaccine. The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised at a HSE clinic.

More information

If you have any queries about your child's vaccinations please discuss this with a member of your HSE school vaccination team, the public health nurse or your GP.

Visit www.immunisation.ie

This vaccine leaflet is available on www.immunisation.ie in Arabic, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Simplified Chinese and Slovak.

