

# BNENC

## Childhood Immunisation



### How to book your child's vaccination appointment

You will be contacted by your GP surgery when your child is due a routine immunisation – this could be by phone, text or email.

If your child has missed any vaccinations, then it is best to speak to your GP surgery. While it is best for your children to have their vaccinations according to the [NHS vaccination schedule](#), it is never too late to check if they can still have them.

### Background information

The UK's childhood vaccination programme [prevents around 5,000 deaths](#), and over 100,000 hospital admissions, each year in England.

Vaccinations have ensured the UK has been declared free of diseases such as polio, with others, like diphtheria, almost fully controlled. However, in recent years we have seen a trend of lower vaccine uptake, and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

England no longer has the high levels of population immunity recommended by the World Health Organisation for highly infectious diseases like measles to be eliminated (95%), and this has led to increased risk for those who are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated.

Preventable childhood infections can have a huge impact on a child's life: they can miss out on education due to time spent unwell, be hospitalised, and have life-long complications such as deafness, blindness, encephalitis (infection of the brain) and paralysis. Sometimes they can cause death.

We have already begun to see increased cases of measles and whooping cough, with outbreaks around the country, so there is an urgent need to ensure children are vaccinated and protected against these serious illnesses.

**All information taken from Childhood immunisations campaign 2024 Communications toolkit for NHS and local authorities**



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