

Dear Parents

Health Promotion Board
3 Second Hospital Avenue
Singapore 168937

VACCINATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN IN SINGAPORE

Without immunisations, a child is at a greater risk of catching one of the vaccine-preventable disease which are dangerous and sometimes deadly. Vaccines were developed to prevent these diseases. Vaccines are very safe, and the threat of these diseases is very real. The Health Science Authority (HSA) monitors the safety of vaccines. Many hundreds of thousands of children in Singapore have been vaccinated without suffering any serious adverse effects over the years.

Children who are not immunised also pose a threat of transmission when there is disease in the community. They can spread the disease to babies who are too young for immunisations. They also pose a threat to children with medical conditions which impair their immunity, including children with leukaemia, who cannot be immunised because of their medical conditions. For a very small percentage of children, vaccines may not “take.” These children also are put at risk.

In Singapore, the National Childhood Immunisation Programme (NCIP) is in place (Annex A) to ensure comprehensive vaccination coverage. The NCIP covers vaccinations against tuberculosis (also called BCG); hepatitis B; diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (together as DTaP or Tdap); poliomyelitis; measles, mumps and rubella (together as MMR); pneumococcal disease; and human papillomavirus.

Diphtheria and measles vaccinations are compulsory by law.

The recent outbreak of measles in Taiwan and Japan have raised concerns that outbreak of measles could occur in Singapore as well.

Measles can be prevented effectively by vaccination and vaccination against measles has been established as part of the National Childhood Immunisation Programme since 1976. As measles has been compulsory by law for children since 1985, the vaccination coverage for measles in children aged two in the Singaporean population remains high.

Even though the vaccination rate is high, measles is by no means eliminated. It is important that young children receive two doses of MMR vaccine at 12 months and between 15-18 months. This builds up herd immunity in the community and protects

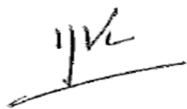
those children under 12 months who are too young to be immunised. Measles vaccine is given as a 3 in 1 injection (Measles/Mumps/Rubella).

Measles is a highly infectious disease. Symptoms include high fever, running nose, cough, red, watery eyes and a widespread rash. Complications include pneumonia, fits, infection of the brain and brain linings and possibly death.

Are residents in Singapore safe from contracting measles? They will be well protected in Singapore or if they are travelling to Taiwan or Japan provided they have had 2 doses of MMR.

Protect your child against vaccine-preventable diseases by vaccinating your child according to the Singapore National Childhood Immunisation Schedule and adhere to the schedule in accordance with Singapore's Infectious Disease Act. A pamphlet entitled "Get them vaccinated" has been attached for your information.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Vijaya', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR K VIJAYA
DIRECTOR
YOUTH PREVENTIVE SERVICES
HEALTH PROMOTION BOARD

Annex A

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE, SINGAPORE

Vaccination against	Birth	1 Month	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	10-11 years [^]
Tuberculosis	BCG									
Hepatitis B	HepB (D1)	HepB (D2)			HepB (D3) [#]					
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis			DTaP (D1)	DTaP (D2)	DTaP (D3)				DTaP (B1)	Tdap (B2)
Poliovirus			IPV (D1)	IPV (D2)	IPV (D3)				IPV (B1)	OPV (B2)
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b			Hib (D1)	Hib (D2)	Hib (D3)				Hib (B1)	
Measles, Mumps, Rubella							MMR (D1)	MMR (D2) ^{##}		
Pneumococcal Disease			PCV (D1)		PCV (D2)		PCV (B1)			
Human Papillomavirus		Recommended for females 9 to 26 years; three doses are required at intervals of 0, 2, 6 months								

BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccine	D1/D2/D3	1 st dose, 2 nd dose, 3 rd dose
HepB	Hepatitis B vaccine	B1/B2	1 st booster, 2 nd booster
DTaP	Paediatric diphtheria and tetanus toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine	[^]	Primary 5
Tdap	Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine	#	3 rd dose of HepB can be given at the same time as the 3 rd dose of DTaP, IPV, and Hib for the convenience of parents.
IPV	Inactivated polio vaccine	##	2 nd dose of MMR can be given between 15-18 months
OPV	Oral polio vaccine		
MMR	Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine		
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine		
PCV	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine		