

# Routine Vaccinations for Children During Coronavirus

*This document provides answers to your frequently asked questions about vaccinating your child during coronavirus.*

## What are “routine” childhood vaccinations?

Different vaccinations are given at different ages to protect you and your child. Click [here](#) to check which ones apply to your child on the NHS website. They are free on the NHS as part of the National Vaccination Programme. Worldwide vaccinations prevent 2-3 million deaths every year from life-threatening diseases such as meningitis, whooping cough and measles.

## My child or someone in the family has symptoms of coronavirus – should we still go for the vaccination?

No – if anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, or if you are self-isolating because you were in contact with a suspected coronavirus case, then you should stay at home. Once you have completed your period of isolation, reschedule your child’s appointment as soon as possible.

## I am worried about bringing my child to the GP. What should I do?

Your GP surgery, or health clinic, is taking precautions to protect you and your baby from coronavirus. If you are worried about taking your child for their vaccination appointment, call your GP surgery to discuss your concerns.



## My child has a fever – should they still go for their vaccination?

No, if your child has a fever or is feeling unwell, they should not be vaccinated. Reschedule the appointment for when they are better.



## Is it safe to wait for my child to have their vaccinations?

No – a delay in a child’s routine vaccinations can put them at risk from potentially serious diseases. Vaccinations for babies and pre-school children need to be given on time. Routine vaccinations are continuing as normal despite coronavirus. This means your child will be protected from highly infectious diseases when they start to mix with other children again.



## What would happen if lots of children stopped getting vaccinations?

The more children who receive their vaccinations, the greater the protection a whole community has. If the number of children getting vaccinations falls, then diseases will spread much more easily. This means unvaccinated children and children who cannot have vaccinations due to underlying conditions are at greater risk of catching serious diseases. [Click here for more information.](#)



## What do I do if I have missed a routine vaccination?

If your child's routine vaccinations have been delayed or missed, you should arrange for them to be given as soon as possible. You can catch up on any missed or delayed vaccinations. The best thing to do is to call your GP practice to book a new appointment.

## Should children still have vaccinations if someone in the family is particularly vulnerable?

Yes, it is really important that children in a vulnerable household keep up to date with their routine vaccinations. GPs are taking every effort to protect you and your child from coronavirus. If your child, or someone you live with is particularly vulnerable, call your GP practice before your appointment.



## My older child was due to have vaccinations at school – will these still go ahead?

These will be delayed while schools are closed. They are not as time-critical as vaccinations for pre-school children so rescheduling will not put pupils at risk.



## What if my child gets a fever post-vaccination?

Fever can be expected after any vaccination and is more common with the Meningococcal B (Men B) vaccination given at 8 and 16 weeks old. If a vaccination causes a fever it will probably start roughly six hours after the vaccination and normally settles within two days.



If your child still has a fever 48 hours after the vaccination, or if you are concerned about their health at any time, call your GP or dial 111. If you need urgent medical help call 999 or go to your nearest A&E.

## Does my child need to self-isolate if they have diarrhoea and no other coronavirus symptoms after their Rotavirus vaccination?

Like all vaccinations, the Rotavirus vaccination can cause side effects such as mild diarrhoea. This is usually mild and does not last long. If your child has no other symptoms of coronavirus then they do not need to isolate. If you are concerned about their health at any time, call your GP or dial 111. If you need urgent medical help call 999 or go to your nearest A&E.



## Will my child's vaccinations “overwhelm” their immune system and make them more susceptible to catching coronavirus?

No – as soon as babies are born, they come into contact with a huge number of different bacteria and viruses. Your baby’s immune system copes well with all these new bacteria and viruses. Vaccinations will not overload their immune system and do not make them more likely to get other infections. Your child can respond to the vaccination using only a tiny bit of the whole capacity of their immune system.

If your child gets an infection immediately after they have been vaccinated, or if they had an infection already but were not showing symptoms when they had their vaccination, their immune system will still be able to fight the infection.

## Does my child need to self-isolate if they have a fever and no other coronavirus symptoms after their vaccination?

No, vaccinations might cause a fever, but this is a common reaction and is normally gone within 48 hours. Isolation is not required, unless your child has other coronavirus symptoms.

## I am worried that I can't get hold of liquid paracetamol to give my child after their vaccination.

Parents are often advised to give children paracetamol, particularly after the MenB vaccinations at the first and third vaccination appointments (at 8 and 16 weeks old) but this is not essential. Paracetamol is not routinely needed after the MenB booster vaccination given at 12 months old. Even if you are unable to get hold of paracetamol, your child can and should still be vaccinated. Please click [here](#) for more information on the use of paracetamol to prevent and treat fever after MenB vaccination.

## I still have questions or worries about getting my child vaccinated – what should I do?

Contact your practice nurse, GP or health visitor. They will be happy to talk to you about vaccinations and answer any of your questions.



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