

Swiss Immunization Schedule

Recommended immunizations for the general population

Immunization	Age in months								Age in years				
	0	2	3	4	5	9	12	12–18	4–7	11–15	25	45	from 65
RSV	1 dose shortly after birth (if born Oct.-Mar.) or in October (if born Apr.-Sept.)												
Diphtheria – Tetanus		○		○			○		○	○	○	○	○ ³⁾
Whooping cough (pertussis)		○		○			○		○	○	○		
Polio		○		○			○		○				
Haemophilus influenzae Typ b		○		○			○						
Hepatitis B		○		○			○			○ ¹⁾			
Pneumococcal		○		○			○						○
Rotavirus		○		○									
Meningococcal B			○		○			○		○ ¹⁾			
Meningococcal ACWY								○		○			
Measles – Mumps – Rubella						○	○						
Chickenpox (varicella)						○	○						
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)										○ ¹⁾	○ ²⁾		
Shingles (herpes zoster)													○ ¹⁾
Flu (influenza) and COVID-19													○ ⁴⁾
Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE)									From age 3 for everyone at risk ⁵⁾				

There are also separate immunization recommendations, e.g. for travellers, pregnant women, risk groups, and persons in close contact with risk groups. Seek advice from a health professional.

○ Basic immunization: important for individual and community protection

● Complementary immunization: important for individual protection

○ Combination vaccines: multiple vaccines in one shot

○ If previously unimmunized

1) More than one dose is required.

2) HPV catch-up vaccination from the age of 15 to 26.

3) Diphtheria-tetanus: booster at 65, then every ten years.

4) Flu and COVID-19 vaccination annually.

5) TBE vaccination for people exposed to tick habitats in almost all of Switzerland (see www.fsme-schweiz.ch). More than one dose necessary.

Immunization information

Reasons to be immunized

- Immunization protects against certain infectious diseases, which can have serious health impacts.
- A vaccine imitates an infection from a pathogen (virus, bacteria), without actually causing the disease. This enables the immune system to build resistance against the infectious agent. If the actual pathogen is subsequently contracted, the immune system recognises it and makes it harmless more quickly. This reduces the severity of the illness or prevents it altogether.
- All recommended immunizations are for individual protection. Getting immunized often protects others and limits the spread of infectious diseases.

When is the best time to get immunized?

- The timing of every immunization is deliberately selected to provide the best possible protection against the disease. It usually takes several doses to build up protection.
- The duration of protection varies depending against which disease you immunize. Some immunizations provide lifelong protection, while others require boosters.
- If you miss or postpone an immunization, you will have reduced or possibly no protection against the infection or serious illness. Receive your immunization at the recommended time.
- You can normally catch up on missed immunizations.

- If the time interval is longer than recommended between vaccine doses, you do not have to start over. Every vaccine counts.

Single or combination vaccine?

- Single vaccines** protect against just one pathogen.
- Combination vaccines** protect against multiple pathogens with just one shot.
- Our immune system is used to dealing with multiple pathogens at the same time. So you can easily receive several vaccines at the same time.
- For vaccines available in Switzerland: www.infovac.ch.

When not to immunize

- Immunization should be delayed in the event of acute, serious illness.
- The health care professional giving the immunization will assess if a dose cannot be administered for any reason (e.g. pregnancy, serious allergy, immunodeficiency etc.).

Does immunization entail any risks?

- Vaccines are among the safest medical products available.
- As with any medicine, immunizing agents can have side-effects.
- There may be a temporary reaction after administering a vaccine such as: pain, reddening or swelling at the injection site, headache, tired-

ness, muscle and joint pain, discomfort, fever. These reactions show that the body is building up protection against the disease. The side-effects are usually minor and don't last long.

- Serious and longer lasting side-effects from vaccinations can occur, but they are very rare. They are much less common than complications from the diseases themselves.
- If you experience an unexpected health problem after an immunization, please contact your doctor.
- An immunization is only recommended if the benefits clearly outweigh the risks.

Where can I receive more information on immunizations?

- From a doctor or pharmacist
- On the internet: www.sichimpfen.ch
- From the vaccination infoline: Telephone 0844 448 448

The costs of recommended immunizations (apart from travel vaccinations) are usually covered by your basic health insurance.