



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question and Answer Booklet on Routine Immunisation



World Health
Organization



unicef 
for every child

1. What is Immunisation?

Immunisation is a means of protecting a person against vaccine preventable diseases by building the body's defence system so that it is able to fight off diseases.

This is achieved through giving vaccines to a person through the mouth and/or by injections.

2. Why Immunise?

Immunisation will:

- ◆ Strengthen a child's ability to fight diseases against the 11 childhood immunisable diseases
- ◆ Reduce chances of children suffering from the 11 Childhood immunisable diseases.
- ◆ Prevent lameness, blindness, liver disease, cancer of the cervix among others.
- ◆ Contribute to a child's proper growth and development.
- ◆ Reduce costs in terms of time and money spent on treatment which contribute to socio-economic development.
- ◆ Protect the woman and her future babies from Tetanus.

3. What are the routine childhood vaccine preventable diseases

- ◆ Tuberculosis
- ◆ Poliomyelitis
- ◆ Whooping Cough
- ◆ Diphtheria
- ◆ Measles
- ◆ Tetanus/Neonatal Tetanus
- ◆ Hepatitis B infection
- ◆ Cancer of the Cervix
- ◆ Pneumococcal infections (pneumonia and meningitis)
- ◆ Haemophilus Influenza
- ◆ Diarrhoea due to Rotavirus.

4. Who should be immunised?

According to Ministry of Health policy, the following categories of persons are targeted for routine immunisation.

- ◆ All children below one year should be taken for immunisation five times before their first birthday.
- ◆ All girls aged 10 years in and out of school should be vaccinated against Cancer of the cervix.
- ◆ All women of child bearing age (15-49 years) should be vaccinated against Tetanus.

5. Who provides immunisation services?

Immunisation is provided by qualified Health workers.

6. How is Immunisation done?

Immunisation is done by giving Vaccines by mouth or injection.

7. Where is Immunisation done?

Immunisation is provided at all Government and Non-Government Health Facilities and Outreach sites in your Communities.

8. Is Immunisation effective?

Yes, immunisation is very effective in preventing diseases when all recommended doses of vaccines are given at the right time as per the schedule. For example, Polio and Measles have reduced greatly because of immunisation; and small pox was eradicated worldwide through intensive immunisation.

9. How much does it cost to immunise?

Routine Immunisation services are free of charge. The Government has paid for the vaccines.

10. What are the benefits of immunisation?

- ◆ Immunisation strengthens a person's ability to fight diseases for life
- ◆ Reduces chances of children suffering from childhood immunisable diseases
- ◆ Protects children from liver disease and cancer later in life
- ◆ Prevents complications such as lameness and blindness in children; and reduces burden to parents/caretakers, community and nation
- ◆ Contributes to child's proper growth and development
- ◆ Reduces costs in terms of time and money spent on treatment. This contributes to socio-economic development
- ◆ Protects the entire community from the childhood vaccine preventable diseases
- ◆ Protects the mother and her unborn baby from Tetanus

11. How many times should I take my child for immunisation?

Children should be taken for immunisation five times before their first birthday, as indicated in the immunisation schedule. The health worker will advise you on the next visit.

- ◆ Child must be taken for immunisation 5 times before their first birthday, according to the immunization schedule below

1. Schedule for Children below one year

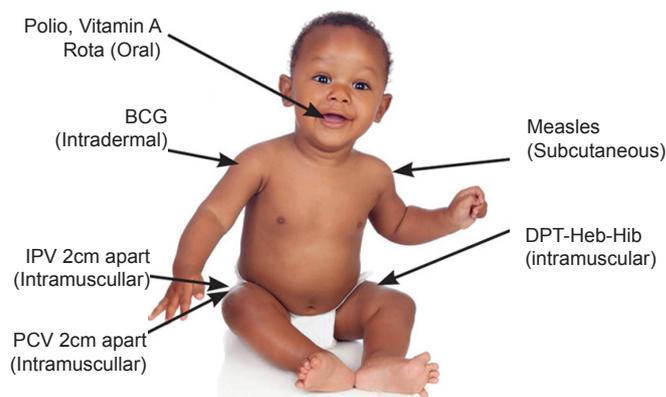
- ◆ The schedule reflects all the vaccines a child should get before their first birthday and to be considered as fully immunised

NUMBER OF VISITS	AGE OF THE CHILD	VACCINE	DISEASE PREVENTED	HOW AND WHERE VACCINATION IS GIVEN
1st	AT BIRTH	Polio 0	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		BCG	• Tuberculosis	Injection on the right (upper arm)
2nd	AT 6 WEEKS (One and a half month)	Polio 1	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		DPT-HEPB-HIB 1	• Diphtheria, • Whooping cough, • Tetanus, • Hepatitis B, • Haemophilus influenza type B	Injection on the (left thigh)
		Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 10 (PCV1)	• Meningitis and • Pneumonia (caused by streptococcal Pneumoniae)	Injection on the (right thigh)
		Rotavirus Vaccine1	• Diarrhoea	Slow release into the mouth (Baby sucks)
3rd	AT 10 WEEKS (Two and a half months)	Polio 2	• Polio • Diphtheria, • Whooping cough, • Tetanus, • Hepatitis B, • Haemophilus influenza type B illnesses	2 Drops in the mouth
		DPT-HepB-Hib 2	• Meningitis and • Pneumonia (caused by streptococcal Pneumoniae)	Injection on the (left thigh)
		Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 10 (PCV 2)	• Meningitis and • Pneumonia (caused by streptococcal Pneumoniae)	Injection on the (right thigh)
		Rotavirus Vaccine 2	• Diarrhoea (caused by Rotavirus)	Slow release into the mouth (Baby sucks)
4th	AT 14 WEEKS (Three and a half months)	Polio 3	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV)	• Polio	Injection on the (left thigh)
		Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 10 (PCV 3)	• Diphtheria, • Whooping cough, • Tetanus, • Hepatitis B, • Haemophilus influenza type B illnesses	Injection on the (right thigh)
5th	At 6 months and every 6 months until child is 5 years	Vitamin A Supplement	• Prevent blindness and strengthen resistance against other diseases	Drops in the mouth
5th	AT 9 MONTHS	Measles Vaccine	• Measles	Injection on the (left arm)

Parents take your children for immunisation 5 times before their first birthday
All vaccines are SAFE, EFFECTIVE and FREE
(For further information please contact: Toll free line: 0800100066)

EPI vaccines and route of administration

Vaccines are given to a child through the mouth (orally) and/or by injection.



12. How many times should a woman of child bearing age be vaccinated against Tetanus and Diphtheria?

Women of child-bearing age should be vaccinated to protect themselves and their future babies against Tetanus and Diphtheria





UGANDA TETANUS - DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE

Number of visits	Age	Vaccine given	Disease Prevented	How and where the vaccine is given
1st Dose	Women of Child bearing age (At 15 to 49 years)	Tetanus Diphtheria (TD1) Vaccine	Tetanus Diphtheria	Injection on the upper arm
2nd Dose	1 Month after 1st dose	Tetanus Diphtheria (TD2) Vaccine	Tetanus Diphtheria	Injection on the upper arm
3rd Dose	6 Months after 2nd dose	Tetanus Diphtheria (TD3) Vaccine	Tetanus Diphtheria	Injection on the upper arm
4th Dose	12 Months (1 Year) after 3rd dose	Tetanus Diphtheria (TD4) Vaccine	Tetanus Diphtheria	Injection on the upper arm
5th Dose	12 Months (1 Year) after 4th dose	Tetanus Diphtheria (TD5) Vaccine	Tetanus Diphtheria	Injection on the upper arm

The TD vaccine protects Women of Child Bearing Age from Tetanus and Diphtheria
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13. How many doses should a ten year old girl in the community or a girl in primary four, get to be fully immunised against cancer of the cervix?

As indicated in the HPV schedule, girls of 10 years in and out of school should receive two doses of the HPV vaccine. The first dose is given as soon as, she turns 10 years and the second dose, should be given six months after receiving the first dose.



UGANDA HPV VACCINE IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE

Immunisation Schedule for HPV vaccine to protect girls against Cancer of the Cervix



Number of Visits	Age	Vaccine given	Disease prevented	How and where the Vaccine is given
1 st Dose	Girls at 10 years of age, in and out of school	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine HPV 1	Cancer of the Cervix	Injection on the upper arm
2 nd Dose	Six Months after 1 st dose	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine HPV 2	Cancer of the Cervix	Injection on the upper arm

14. Are the vaccines safe?

All vaccines are safe and have been approved by Ministry of Health, World Health Organization and UNICEF.

15. How do vaccines protect the body ?

Vaccines work by preparing the body to fight diseases.

When the body receives the vaccine, it starts to practice how to fight off the disease by making antibodies that recognize the specific germ.

This is how protection is built and if someone who is vaccinated/immunised, is ever exposed to the actual disease, the antibodies are already in place and the body knows how to combat it and the person doesn't get sick. This is called immunity.

16. What are the possible reactions after immunisation?

- ◆ Rise in body temperature
- ◆ Pain, swelling and redness at the site of injection

But all these effects can be managed. Do not apply any medication it will heal by itself.

17. Does having multiple shots at one appointment put my child's immune system at risk?

No, multiple immunization shots will not compromise or overwhelm your child's immune system.

All vaccines are safe and have been approved by Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF.

18. Why give both oral and injectable vaccines for polio at a go?

It gives double protection to the child against polio.

19. Why give multiple injections at ago?

Because each vaccine protects against a particular disease

20. Why is it important to complete the immunisation schedule?

Giving your child all of the vaccines at the age recommended does ensure your child's health is best protected. This is why it is important to follow and complete the immunisation schedule.

21. Can vaccines cause infertility?

No, vaccines do not cause infertility but provide protection to the recipient against immunisable killer diseases.

22. When is the vaccine most effective to the recipient?

- ◆ For children, from birth to one year.
- ◆ For girls against cervical cancer, at 10 years.
- ◆ For women of child bearing age, 15-49 years

23. Do cultural practices and/or traditional treatments protect children from immunisable diseases?

- ◆ Immunisation is very effective in preventing diseases when all recommended doses of vaccines are given at the right time as per the schedule
- ◆ It is every leaders' and parents' duty and responsibility to ensure that all children are immunised on time and complete the immunisation schedule.

“Let us all support parents and guardians to ensure that their children are fully immunised”



For more information about immunisation

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Visit our website: www.health.go.ug