

Childhood vaccination guide: Protecting health from birth

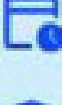
Vaccination during childhood is one of the most effective ways to protect children from serious infectious diseases. Early immunization helps a child's immune system develop protection against illnesses that could otherwise lead to severe health complications.

The National Immunization Schedule (NIS) provides a structured timeline for vaccines to be administered from birth through early childhood. Following this schedule ensures children receive timely protection during critical stages of development.

National Immunization Schedule – Infants

	BCG (Bacillus Calmette–Guérin)	Hepatitis B (Birth Dose)	OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) - 0	OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) 1,2,3	Pentavalent 1,2,3	Rotavirus	IPV (Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine)
	At birth or as early as possible till one year of age.	At birth or within 24 hours.	At birth or within first 15 days.	6, 10 and 14 weeks	6, 10 and 14 weeks	6, 10 and 14 weeks	6 and 14 weeks
	Protects against severe forms of Tuberculosis.	Protects against Hepatitis B infection affecting the liver.	Protects against Poliovirus infection.	Builds immunity against Polio	Protects against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib infections.	Protects against severe Diarrhoea caused by Rotavirus	Provides additional protection against Polio

National Immunization Schedule – Children

	JE (Japanese Encephalitis) (1st Dose)	DPT Booster - 1	MR (2nd Dose)	JE (2nd Dose)	DPT Booster – 2
	9–12 months (endemic areas)	16–24 months	16–24 months	16–24 months (endemic areas)	5 to 6 years
	Protects against Japanese Encephalitis	Boosts protection against Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	Reinforces protection against Measles and Rubella	Continued protection against Japanese Encephalitis	Maintains Immunity against Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus
	Measles & Rubella (1st Dose)	Vitamin A (1st Dose)	OPV Booster	Vitamin A (2nd–9th Dose)	TT
	9–12 months	At 9 months with Measles vaccine	16–24 months	Every 6 months till 5 years	10 years and 16 years
	Protects against Measles and Rubella	Prevents Vitamin A deficiency and supports immunity	Booster protection against Polio	Prevents Vitamin A deficiency	Protects against Tetanus

Additional recommended vaccines for Children

In addition to vaccines included in the National Immunization Schedule, pediatricians may recommend additional vaccines depending on the child's health profile, regional disease patterns and travel requirements.

