



# Vaccines Work

European Immunisation Week 26th April - 2nd May 2021

## European Immunisation Week 2021

European Immunisation Week (EIW) is celebrated across the European Region every April to raise awareness of the importance of immunisation for people’s health and well-being.

This year we will be celebrating [#VaccineHeroes](#) and explaining how [#VaccinesBringUsCloser](#) to ending the pandemic, preventing disease and protecting life.

Our [Vaccines Work](#) infographic shows annual number of vaccine preventable disease cases in Ireland in 2019 versus the pre-vaccine era. Due to the impact of COVID-19 updated figures for 2020 are currently unavailable.

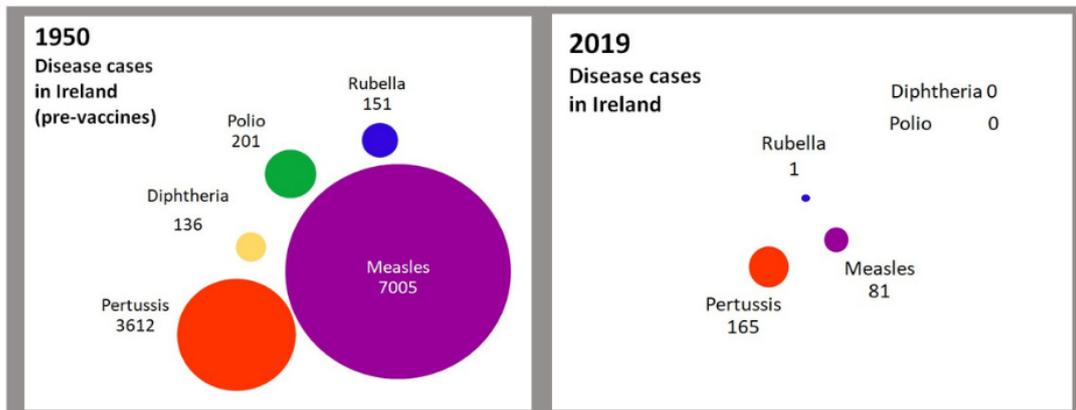
The infographic shows significant progress has been made but we must continue to keep vaccine uptake at 95% to prevent outbreaks of these serious infectious diseases.



## Vaccines Work



These bubbles are sized according to the annual number of cases in Ireland during the pre-vaccine era versus 2019. It is clear that significant progress has been made. However, we must not become complacent. We need to keep vaccine uptake at 95% to stop outbreaks of these serious infectious diseases.



**Reference:**

[www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/immunisationguidelines.html>

Developed by the **HSE National Immunisation Office**



[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

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## #VaccinesWork Facts

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

1. It is important to get vaccines on time, every time
2. The best way to protect yourself and others is to complete the vaccination schedule
3. Serious diseases will come back if we do not vaccinate
4. Vaccines protect the wider community
5. Vaccines are safe
6. Vaccines are effective
7. Combined vaccines provide the best protection
8. Vaccines are important for pregnant women
9. People trust what healthcare workers say about vaccines

## It is important your child gets their vaccines on time, every time

Your child needs to have their vaccines at the right age so they are protected.



Young children are most at risk of getting some infectious diseases and need to be protected as early as possible.

For example, if your child is younger than six months they are at the highest risk for serious complications of whooping cough (6 out of 10 children in this age group need to go into hospital, and 9 out of 10 deaths from whooping cough are in this age group).

Your child needs a number of vaccines to get the best protection, so it is important they complete the course of vaccines.

Book your appointment to make sure your child is fully protected

[Read tips for getting vaccinated during COVID-19 here](#)

[See HSE Childhood Immunisation Resources here](#)

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## The best way to protect your child and others is to complete the vaccination schedule

Your child needs a full course of vaccines to give them the best protection now and in the future.

They need 5 GP visits between 2 and 13 months. It is very important they get their vaccines at 12 and 13 months to provide protection against serious disease such as meningitis.

Make an appointment with your GP if your child has missed some of their vaccines so they are fully protected.



[See Current Schedule here](#)

[See Catch-up Schedules here](#)

### Primary Childhood Immunisation Schedule

Babies born on or after 1 October 2016

Age	Vaccination
<b>2</b> months	<b>Visit 1</b> <b>6 in 1 + MenB + PCV + Rotavirus</b> <b>3 Injection Drops + Oral Drops</b>
<b>4</b> months	<b>Visit 2</b> <b>6 in 1 + MenB + Rotavirus</b> <b>2 Injection Drops + Oral Drops</b>
<b>6</b> months	<b>Visit 3</b> <b>6 in 1 + PCV + MenC</b> <b>3 Injections</b>
No Rotavirus vaccine on or after 8 months 0 days	
<b>12</b> months	<b>Visit 4</b> <b>MMR + MenB</b> <b>2 Injections</b>
<b>13</b> months	<b>Visit 5</b> <b>Hib/MenC + PCV</b> <b>2 Injections</b>

**Remember five visits to your GP (doctor)**

**Remember to give your baby 3 doses of liquid infant paracetamol after the 2 and 4 month MenB vaccines.**

1. Give 2.5 mls (60 mg) of liquid infant paracetamol at the time of the immunisation or shortly after.
2. Give a second dose of 2.5 mls (60 mg) 4 to 6 hours after the first dose.
3. Give a third dose of 2.5 mls (60 mg) 4 to 6 hours after the second dose

[www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

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## Serious diseases will come back if we do not vaccinate

Vaccines given to babies in Ireland prevent 13 diseases including measles, meningitis and pertussis (whooping cough). These diseases may result in serious complications including death. Outbreaks of these serious infectious diseases will occur if people are not vaccinated.

[Read more here](#)

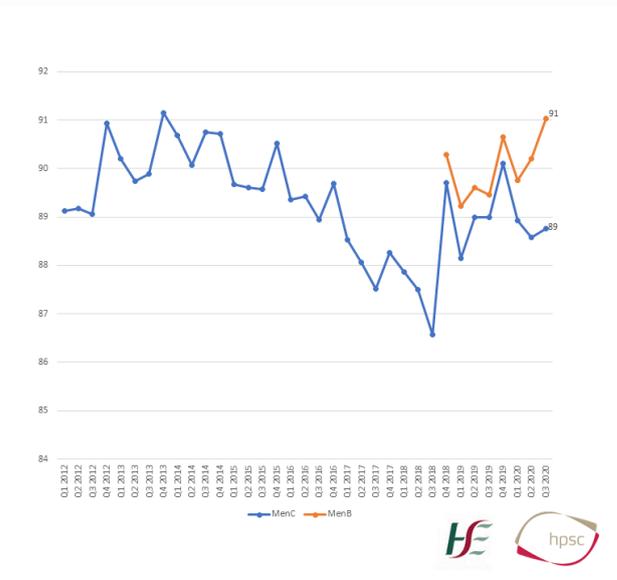
We have developed infographics on the current situation in Ireland for Meningitis B and Meningitis C and MMR vaccines:

This graph shows the % of children who have received 3 doses of Meningitis B and 2 doses of Meningitis C by their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

These vaccines are given as part of the childhood immunisation schedule – but still approximately 9-15% of children do not get them when they should.

We need to make sure as many children as possible take these vaccines to prevent the spread of these life-threatening infections

#VaccinesBringUsCloser  
#EIW2021



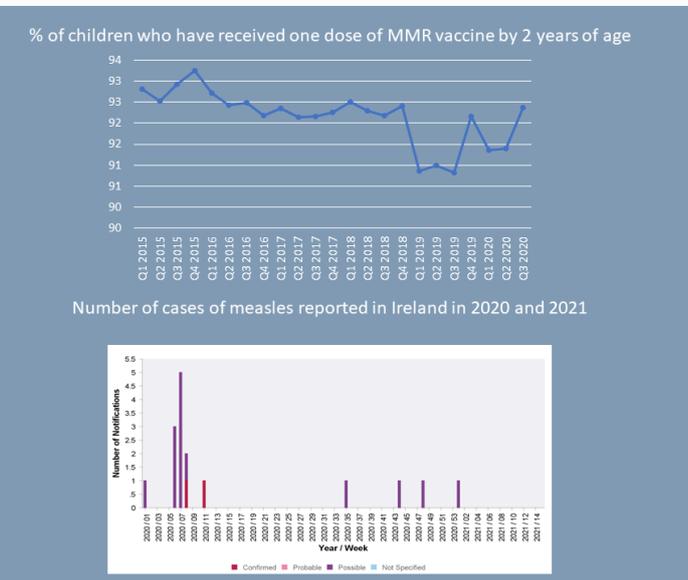
92% of children in Ireland have received one dose of MMR vaccine by 2 years of age.

This has helped keep the number of reported measles cases in Ireland low, but because measles is so infectious we need over 95% of our children to be vaccinated to stop it spreading in our community.

This European Immunisation Week let's continue to protect our children from measles

#EIW2021  
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Source: HPSC Reports on Vaccine Uptake and Vaccine Preventable Illnesses 2020-2021



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## Vaccines protect the wider community



Some people cannot get vaccines and it is important we are all vaccinated to protect them.

For example:

- Some children with a weakened immune system cannot be given the MMR vaccine
- Babies under 6 months of age are too young to be fully protected against whooping cough.

Both of these groups are very vulnerable to the serious complications of these diseases and depend on others being vaccinated to be protected

[Read more about community immunity here](#)

## Vaccines are safe

All vaccines have undergone rigorous studies to ensure that they are safe and effective before they are licensed. They are continually monitored by medicine regulatory authorities in Ireland, Europe and by the World Health Organization.

Most vaccine reactions are minor. Serious side effects occur rarely and are immediately investigated. Vaccine preventable diseases are far more likely to harm than the vaccine developed to prevent it.

Meningococcal C disease can cause blood stream infection (septicaemia) and infection of the lining of the brain (meningitis) particularly in young children: This is why, in Ireland, babies receive a Meningococcal C Vaccine at 6 and 13 months of age.

- If 1,000 people develop Meningococcal C disease, 50 will die
- If 1,000 people receive a Meningitis C vaccine, 50 will develop discomfort, redness and swelling where the injection was given or will have a fever

Vaccines continue to reduce the number of infectious diseases in Ireland.



[Read more about diseases vaccines prevent](#)

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## Vaccines are effective

Most vaccines protect at least 9 out of 10 children who get them. Sometimes immunity (protection) wanes so booster doses are needed when your child is older.

[Read more here](#)



## Combined vaccines provide the best protection



Combined vaccines are more efficient in protecting your child from diseases than separate, single vaccine injections.

Combined vaccines also reduce the number of necessary injections meaning quicker protection, less pain, less stress and less possible side effects for your child e.g. when your child has the 6 in 1 vaccine they only need 3 injections instead of 18.

Research on the immune system has shown that your infant's immune system can deal with almost 10,000 vaccines at one time. So if your child had all 13 recommended vaccines in the childhood immunisation schedule given together, they would use an extremely small portion of their immune system.

If your child has a common cold they are exposed to far more foreign substances than vaccines.

[Read more here](#)

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## Vaccines are important for pregnant women



If you are pregnant you should get pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine during every pregnancy.

Whooping cough is a highly infectious illness which is most serious in children under 6 months. These children are too young to be fully vaccinated.

You should be vaccinated between 16 and 36 weeks gestation. Getting the vaccine at this time gives your baby the best protection during their first few months of life.

[Read more here](#)

## People trust what healthcare workers say about vaccines

We know healthcare workers are the most trusted source for information about vaccines. Every conversation is an opportunity to promote vaccination.

It is important to keep up to date with the latest information which is available from our website [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie).

Our website is part of the **Vaccine Safety Net**, a global network of websites accredited by the World Health Organization that provide reliable information on vaccine safety.



## COVID-19 Vaccines

Visit the [HSE](#) and [our website](#) for up to date information about COVID-19 vaccines

