

Are there any circumstances where the 4-in-1 vaccine should be postponed?

The 4-in-1 is a very safe vaccine. You need to speak with the HSE school vaccination team or GP prior to vaccination if:

- your child has had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of vaccine.
- your child has had a severe allergic reaction to an antibiotic. (In particular streptomycin or polymyxin B).
- your child has a fever; that is a temperature greater than 38°C or 100°F.

You may also be offered the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine at age 4 – 5 years. It is safe for your child to receive the MMR vaccine at the same time as the 4-in-1 vaccine.

Please consult the “MMR Parent Information Leaflet” for further information.

For further information

Please contact your HSE school vaccination team, public health nurse or GP

Get a copy of *My Childs Immunisations – a guide for parents*, which is available from your public health nurse.

Visit www.immunisation.ie or www.hpsc.ie

4-in-1 Vaccine Parent Information Leaflet

Published by: HSE National Immunisation Office
Publication date: August 2007
Order Code: HPC00469



4-in-1 Vaccine Parent Information Leaflet (for children aged 4 - 5 years)



What is the 4-in-1 vaccine?

4-in-1 is the name given to the vaccine which protects against Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Whooping Cough. The vaccine is administered by injection. The vaccine stimulates the immune system to protect your child from these diseases.

What are these diseases?

Diphtheria is a bacterial disease that can cause a thick coating in the nose, throat or airway. Common symptoms include sore throat, high temperature, headache and fast heart rate. Complications include heart failure, paralysis, severe breathing problems or difficulty swallowing.

Tetanus ("lock-jaw") is a disease that causes painful muscle spasm and can lead to fits, and difficulty in breathing.

Polio is a viral infection that affects the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

Whooping Cough is a bacterial infection that causes an irritating cough leading to a number of loud coughs. There may be a characteristic whoop. It can lead to severe breathing difficulties and heart and lung failure.

All of the above are serious illnesses that can lead to death.

Who needs the 4 in 1 vaccine?

The 4 in 1 vaccine is recommended for all children aged 4 to 5 years. Your child should have been given vaccines protecting them from these diseases at two, four and six months of age (5-in-1). This vaccine (4-in-1) is recommended to further boost your child's protection from Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Whooping cough. If you have any queries about your child's vaccinations please discuss this with your GP, public health nurse or a member of your Health Service Executive (HSE) school vaccination team.

Who gives the vaccine?

In most instances this vaccine is offered as part of the school vaccination programme and the HSE will send notification and a consent form through your child's school. In counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Meath, Louth, Sligo and parts of North Dublin the 4-in-1 vaccine may not be offered as part of the HSE school vaccination programme but will be available from your GP. In these cases you will receive a letter from the HSE



asking you to attend your GP when the vaccine is due.

What happens if my child misses the school vaccination day?

You can still get the vaccine. The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised at a special clinic or you may be asked to bring your child to your GP for vaccination.

What can you expect following vaccination?

Most children have no problems following this injection. A small number of children may have a small area of soreness, swelling and redness where the injection was given. Rarely a child may be irritable and have a fever. If this happens you can give them paracetamol or ibuprofen (consult your pharmacy). You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.