About this release

This publication from Information Services Division provides a quarterly update of immunisation uptake rates for children in Scotland at 12 months, 24 months, five years and six years of age, by NHS Board and local authority. Vaccination programmes for children in Scotland aim to both protect the individual child from many serious infectious diseases and to prevent the spread of disease within the wider population.

Main Points

- Uptake rates remain high in Scotland. Uptake of most vaccines increased slightly this quarter.

- Uptake rates by 12 months of age for complete primary courses of immunisation of the five-in-one vaccine (which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and Haemophilus (Hib)), Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) and Meningitis B vaccine were all above 96%.

- Uptake of the complete two dose course of rotavirus vaccine by 12 months of age remained just below 94%.

Primary and booster immunisation uptake rates by 24 months of age, by quarter
Uptake rates for the Haemophilus/Meningitis C (Hib/MenC) booster and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine booster by 24 months were around 95%.

The national target is for 95% uptake of one dose of the MMR vaccine by five years of age, with a supplementary measure at 24 months. Uptake of one dose of MMR vaccine was 94.8% by 24 months of age and 97.1% by five years of age. Uptake rates of one dose of MMR by age five have remained above the 95% target since 2009.

Background

As a public health measure, immunisations are very effective in reducing the burden of disease. The European Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that on a national basis at least 95% of children are immunised against diseases preventable by immunisation and targeted for elimination or control. These include diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), measles, mumps and rubella. In Scotland a target of 95% uptake of one dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine by five years of age (with a supplementary measure at 24 months) was introduced in 2006 to focus efforts on reducing the number of susceptible children entering primary school.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the accompanying downloadable data tables.

We also make available background metadata and information on our pre-release access.

Our annual report on childhood immunisation uptake rates in Scotland is published in March. This report provides comprehensive commentary on immunisation including an outline of the UK childhood immunisation schedule, statistics by calendar year and an explanation of trends in uptake rates.

All our published information on immunisation is available on our website.

The next release of this publication will be in December 2017.

ISD and Official Stats

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.