About this release

This release by 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 protect the individual child from many serious infectious diseases and prevent the spread of disease in the wider population.

Main Points

Quarterly Uptake

- Uptake rates remain high in Scotland; apart from rotavirus vaccine, over 95% of children had received each routine immunisation by the time they were 12 months of age.
- Uptake of rotavirus vaccine, which helps protect young children from infection that causes severe diarrhoea and vomiting, was 93.1% by 12 months of age in quarter ending March 2019. This vaccine is given within strict age limits, which explains the slightly lower uptake rate compared with other vaccines offered in the first year of life.

Primary and booster immunisation uptake rates by 24 months of age, by quarter

Note: The y-axis has been restricted

1. The 5in1 vaccine was replaced by the 6in1 vaccine from 1 October 2017.
By 24 months of age, 94.2% of children had received the Hib/MenC booster vaccine. The uptake rate for the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) booster was also 94.2%.

- Uptake of the MenB booster vaccine by 24 months has remained at 93.5%.
- MMR vaccine is first offered at 12 to 13 months of age. Uptake of one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months of age remained unchanged this quarter at 93.6%.
- The national target is for 95% uptake of one dose of the MMR vaccine by five years of age; in quarter ending March 2019 the figure was 96.6%, a slight decrease from 97.0% in the previous quarter. Uptake rates of one dose of MMR by five years 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.

Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

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**Further Information**

This release also includes figures for the financial year ending 31 March 2019. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. We also make available background metadata and information on our pre-release access.

Our annual report on childhood immunisation uptake rates in Scotland was 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.

For more information on Immunisations see the Immunisation section of our website. For related topics, please see the Child Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be in September 2019.

**ISD and Official Statistics**

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.