About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides a quarterly update of immunisation uptake rates for children in Scotland. Vaccination programmes for children aim to protect the individual child from many serious infectious diseases and prevent the spread of disease in the wider population.

Information is shown by NHS Board and local authority, at 12 months, 24 months, five years and six years of age.

Main Points

- Uptake rates remain high in Scotland; around 96% of children had received each routine immunisation by the time they were 12 months of age, apart from rotavirus vaccine, which had 93.2% uptake.
- Rotavirus vaccine must be given within a short time window, which explains the slightly lower uptake rate for this vaccine.
- The vast majority of children received their booster vaccines by 24 months of age; Hib/MenC (94.4%), Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) (94.4%), MenB (93.7%).
- For the MMR vaccine, which is first offered at 12 to 13 months of age:
  - Almost 94% of children had the first dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months of age. This rose to 97% for children who reached age five in the quarter ending September 2019, exceeding the 95% target.
  - Uptake of the second dose of MMR vaccine by five years was 91.8%, rising to 93.8% by age six years.

Uptake of MMR vaccine by 5 years of age by quarter

Note: Y axis has been restricted

Source: SIRS
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.

Rotavirus vaccine helps to protect young children from infection that causes severe diarrhoea and vomiting. This vaccine should be given within the strict age limits of first dose before 15 weeks and second dose before 24 weeks of age.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

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 March 2020.

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 Statistics. Further information about our statistics.