

# Immunisation

*A Healthy  
Start*

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Your child needs all the care and protection **that you can give. Begin by making sure that your child gets**



# What is immunisation?

## Immunisation

- An effective way of protecting children against certain diseases.
- This can be done by giving vaccines to stimulate the body's defense mechanism (immunity) to produce antibodies.
- Vaccines are modified or killed virus / bacteria, which are given by injection or mouth.

## Immunity

There are 2 types of immunity:

**ACTIVE** Antibodies are produced following exposure to the diseases.

**PASSIVE** Antibodies are produced after immunisation.

Immunisation protects children easily, safely and effectively.



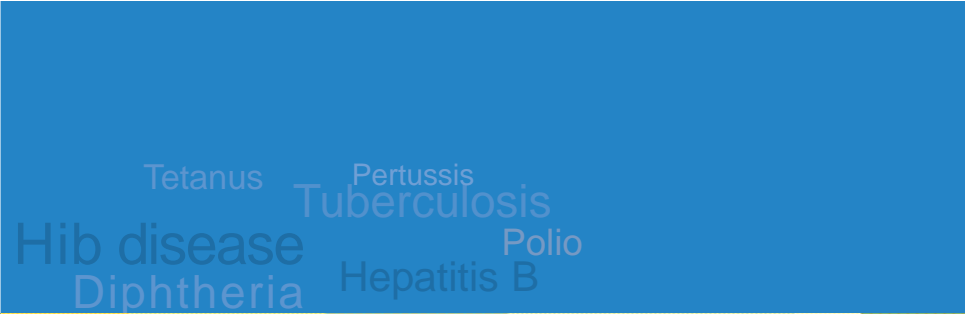
# What are the diseases that can be prevented by immunisation?



A healthy child  
is a happy child

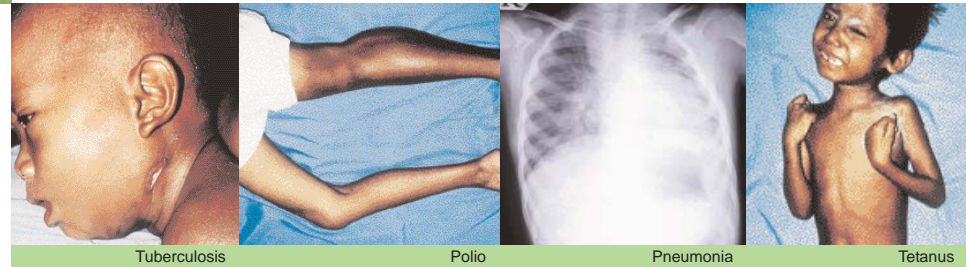
- Tuberculosis
- Hepatitis B
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Hib disease caused by **H**aemophilus **i**nfluenzae type **b** bacteria
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella





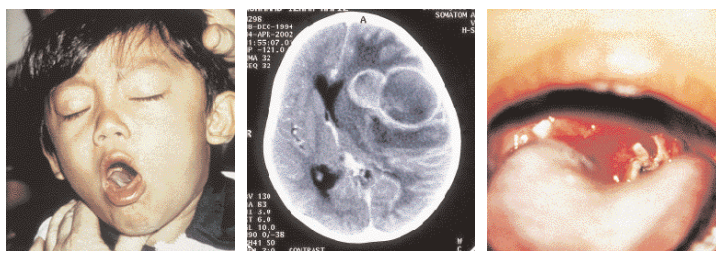
# Complications that can be prevented

- | Disease             | Complications   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Tuberculosis</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pneumonia (infection of the lungs)</li> <li>• meningitis (infection of the coverings of the brain)</li> <li>• infection of other organs such as the gut, bones, joints and kidneys</li> <li>• death</li> </ul> |
| <b>Hepatitis B</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chronic liver disease</li> <li>• liver cancer</li> </ul>   |



Tuberculosis      Polio      Pneumonia      Tetanus

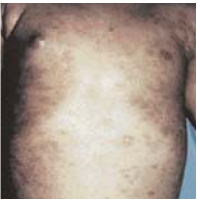
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Diphtheria</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• breathing difficulties</li> <li>• heart problems</li> <li>• nerve problems</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Pertussis (whooping cough)</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pneumonia</li> <li>• fits</li> <li>• death</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Tetanus</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lock jaw</li> <li>• stiffness of the muscles</li> <li>• breathing difficulties</li> <li>• death</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Polio</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paralysis (physical disabilities)</li> <li>• encephalitis (brain infection)</li> <li>• death</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Hib disease (Haemophilus influenzae type b)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pneumonia</li> <li>• meningitis (infection of the coverings of the brain) and its complications such as deafness, blindness, cerebral, palsy and mental retardation</li> <li>• epiglottitis (blockage of the airway) which may lead to death by suffocation</li> </ul> |



Whooping Cough      Brain infection      Diphtheria

# Measles

Rubella Mumps



Measles

## Measles causes:

- pneumonia
- meningitis (infection of the coverings of the brain)
- encephalitis (brain infection)
- deafness and blindness
- diarrhoea
- death

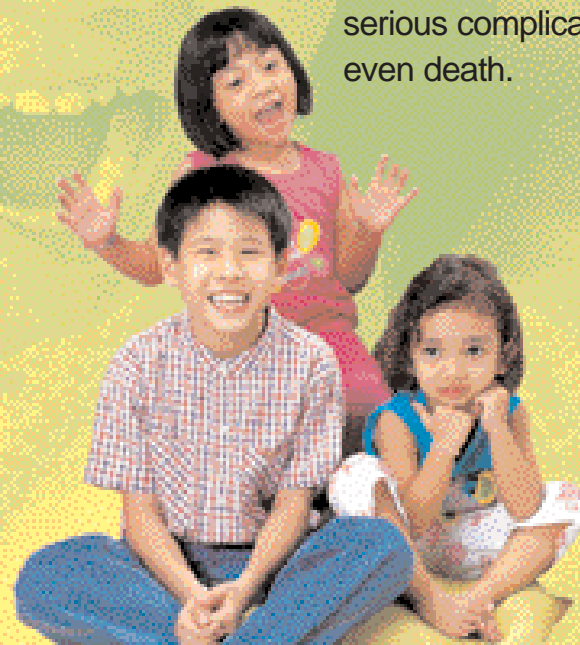
## Mumps causes:

- encephalitis (brain infection)
- orchitis (inflammation of the testes) which may cause infertility

**Rubella** is usually a mild disease in children and adults. However if a woman who has never been immunised, gets rubella during pregnancy, it can affect the unborn baby and lead to multiple abnormalities known as Congenital Rubella Syndrome. This includes deafness, cataracts (leading to blindness), heart defects, growth and mental retardation.

# Why should I immunise my child?

- To protect from diseases which can be prevented through immunisation.
- These diseases can cause serious complications and even death.



# New Immunisation Schedule



Bring your child for immunisation according to the New Immunisation Schedule

Age	New born	1 month	2 months	3 months	5 months	12 months	18 months	Year 1 Primary School	Form 3
Type of Immunisations	BCG	Hepatitis B Dose 2	DPT + Hib Dose 1	DPT + Hib Dose 2	DPT + Hib Dose 3	MMR Dose 1	DPT Booster	MMR Booster	Tetanus Booster
	Hepatitis B Dose 1		Polio Dose 1	Polio Dose 2	Polio Dose 3		Polio Booster	DT Booster	
					Hepatitis B Dose 3			Polio Booster	

- Hib immunisation is combined with Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) and is given as a single injection (DPT + Hib).
- MMR is a combination vaccine given as a single injection to protect your child from Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

- It is important to complete your child's immunisation according to the new immunisation schedule.
- If your child missed any of these immunisations, please bring your child to the health clinic.

# Is immunisation safe?



- Immunisation is SAFE.
- Side effects which may occur are usually mild and not dangerous when compared to getting the diseases or their complications.
- Side effects such as high grade fever (more than 38°C), generalised rash and fits seldom occur.
- If your child has any of these side effects, bring your child to the clinic / hospital immediately.

Can more than one immunisation be given at the same time?

Yes!

- More than one immunisation can safely be given at a single visit.
- Can be given in different parts of the body such as both the thighs or arms.



Can my child be immunised

# if he is not well?

Your child can be **safely immunised** if he has minor illnesses such as:

Low Grade Fever

Ear Infection

Cough

Runny Nose



Can my child  
be immunised if he is  
born **prematurely?**



**Yes!**

Premature babies can be immunised following the recommended immunisation schedule. Consult your health staff for advice.





**“Your Children  
Need The Best Care,  
Fully Immunise Them”**