



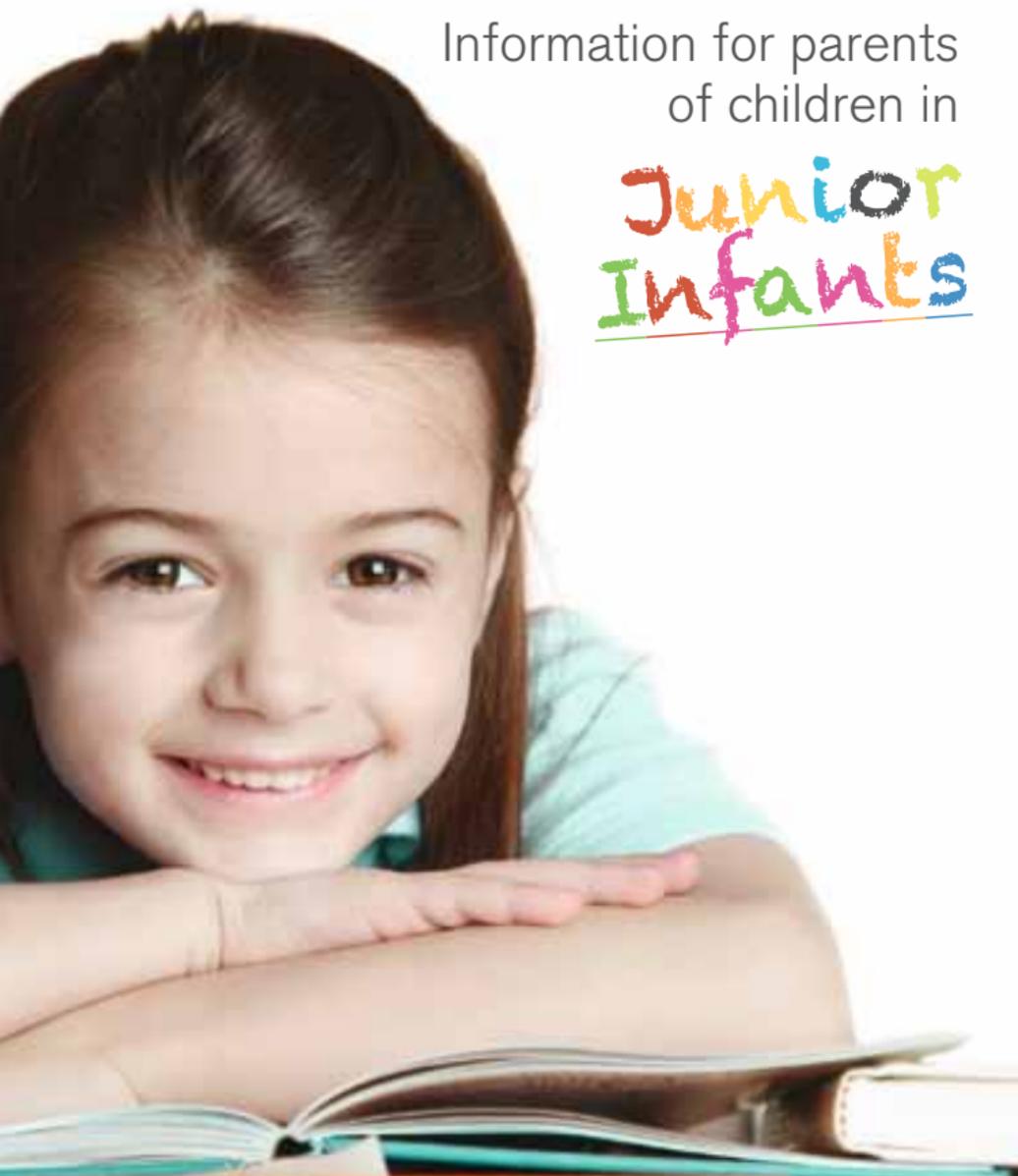
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



4-in-1 & MMR vaccines

Information for parents
of children in

**Junior
Infants**



www.immunisation.ie



The 4-in-1 Vaccine

What is the 4-in-1 vaccine?

4-in-1 is the name given to the vaccine which protects against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and tetanus. All are serious diseases that can lead to death.

	Common Symptoms	Possible Complications
Diphtheria	Sore throat Fast heart rate	Breathing difficulties Paralysis Heart failure Death
Pertussis	Irritating cough that sounds like a whoop	Breathing difficulties Heart and lung failure Death
Polio	Fever Headache Vomiting	Paralysis Death
Tetanus	Painful muscle spasms	Convulsions (Fits) Lock jaw Death

Who needs the 4-in-1 vaccine?

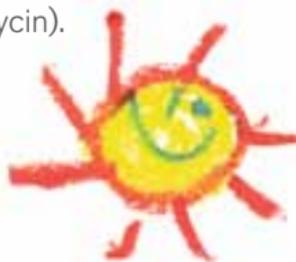
Your child should have been given vaccines protecting them from these diseases at two, four and six months of age. In order to boost your child's immune system and provide protection against these diseases a further dose is required in Junior Infants at 4-5 years.



Are there any children who should not get the 4-in-1 vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get the 4-in-1 vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they have had a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine or any part of a vaccine or had a severe allergic reaction to an antibiotic (streptomycin, polymyxin B or neomycin).

You should delay getting the 4-in-1 vaccine if your child is ill with a high temperature.



The MMR Vaccine

What is the MMR vaccine?

The MMR vaccine protects your child against measles, mumps and rubella (also called German measles).

Measles, mumps and rubella are caused by viruses and are highly infectious diseases. They are spread when the virus is passed from somebody who has the disease to somebody who has no protection against it.

	Common Symptoms	Possible Complications
Measles	Fever Rash Red and painful eyes	Ear infections Pneumonia Bronchitis
Mumps	Painful swollen glands under the jaw and fever	Meningitis Swollen, painful testicles in adult males Mumps during pregnancy can cause problems for the developing baby
Rubella	Fever and a rash	If a pregnant woman gets rubella, her baby may suffer from major birth defects including blindness, brain damage, deafness, heart problems and other serious complications



Who needs the MMR vaccine?

Your child should have been given an MMR vaccine at 12 months of age. Children should get a second dose in Junior Infants at 4-5 years of age. Two doses of MMR vaccine will give your child the best protection.

Are there any children who should not get the MMR vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get the MMR vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they have had a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous MMR vaccine or to neomycin or gelatin which are contained in MMR vaccine.

You should delay getting the MMR vaccine if your child:

- is ill with a high temperature
- is on high dose corticosteroids
- is having treatment such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- has any illness or disease that affects their immune system.



Is there a link between the MMR vaccine and autism or bowel disease?

No. Research has shown that there is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism, bowel disease or hyperactivity.



Vaccines

How to get these vaccines for your child

These vaccines are offered as part of the HSE school immunisation programme. You will receive details and a consent form before your child is vaccinated. In some counties these vaccines may be given by your GP. In these cases you will receive a letter from the HSE asking you to attend your GP when the vaccines are due.

The 4-in-1 and MMR vaccine can be given safely at the same time. Your child will receive a vaccine in each arm.

What happens if your child misses the school vaccination day?

Your child can still get the vaccines. The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised at a HSE 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 these injections. A small number of children may have an 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. 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. Some children may get "mini measles" with a rash and fever 6 to 10 days later. This is not contagious.



More Information

If you have any queries about your child's vaccinations please discuss this with a member of your HSE school immunisation team, the public health nurse or your GP.

Visit www.immunisation.ie

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