

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



Date: 17.4.2020

Please be aware that this is a rapidly evolving situation.

Immunisation principles during the Covid-19 pandemic

Practice information

- Ensure the practice team are aware of the importance of maintaining the national immunisation programme during the pandemic including clear messages to be given to patients/carers that immunisations are still important if they contact the practice.

Contact parents/carers

- Consider sending out information to parents/carers in advance by text and/or email.
- Explain to parents/carers why it is important to continue the National Immunisation Programme during the pandemic and check what immunisations are due.
- Provide guidance to parents/carers on what you are doing to keep them safe whilst attending for vaccination (including any personal protective equipment (PPE), surgery access and cleaning programmes) including assuring them that the practice has a social distancing policy when they arrive.

Pre-attendance discussion

- Undertake a telephone consultation with parents.
- Inform parents/carers that they should not attend if they or any member of the household is in self isolation. This could be because they are known to have Covid-19 or that they have any of the symptoms of Covid-19, particularly a new persistent cough or a high temperature. Remind them that they should contact the practice after their period of self-isolation has ended.
- Acknowledge any parent/carer's concerns around exposure to Covid-19 when attending for immunisation.
- Complete as much of the pre-immunisation discussion, discuss consent, and give post-immunisation advice prior to the patient attending the practice.
- Advise when booking that it is preferable for other children not to attend.
- Remind parent/carer to bring Red Book to appointment.

Baby/parent arrives at the practice

- Prepare vaccine(s).
- Wash hands and don PPE.
- Collect the baby/parent from the practice entrance and take them directly into clinical room.
- Confirm patient ID, administer vaccine as previously discussed and consented for and give appropriate post immunisation advice (additional advice in relation to Covid-19 concerns maybe required).
- Complete Red Book.

Baby/parent leaves the practice

- Escort patient and baby/parent/carer out of the practice.
- Remove PPE and carry out appropriate cleaning of the clinical area.
- Complete computer documentation and text/email details of next date for further immunisations.

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Useful resource links

- [Gov.uk website: What to expect after vaccination](#)
- [Royal College of Nursing \(RCN\): Practical guidance for vaccine administration](#)
- [Public Health England \(PHE\): Vaccine update March 2020](#)
- [Royal College of General Practitioners \(RCGP\): Policy guidance on priorities for primary care](#)
- [Immunisation against infectious disease \(the green book\)](#)
- [UK immunisation schedule](#)
- [UK algorithm for incomplete or uncertain immunisation schedule NHS](#)
- [NHS: Fever in children](#)
- [RCN: Medicines management patient group directions \(PGDs\) and patient specific directions \(PSDs\)](#)
- [Specialist Pharmacy Services \(SPS\): Q&A to support the use of PGDs in primary care networks](#)