

Dear parents,

### **Congratulations on the birth of your child!**

We are taking advantage of this happy event to inform you of the importance of vaccination.

## **Vaccination in Switzerland**

The **Swiss vaccination plan** has been developed by specialist doctors and by the FOPH (Federal Office of Public Health). The plan is based on the latest scientific knowledge.

The objective of vaccines is to **protect your child** from diseases that can sometimes be serious. Vaccination also helps to protect those who cannot be vaccinated, such as infants, people with a weakened immune system or pregnant women.

You will find the list of basic and complementary vaccinations overleaf.

- The basic vaccinations protect your child and the population against serious diseases.
- The complementary vaccinations protect your child first and foremost.

## **Additional information**

If you have any questions or would like additional information:

- **Paediatrician** who knows your child and will be able to give you the best advice;
- **Websites:** [www.sevacciner.ch](http://www.sevacciner.ch), [www.infovac.ch](http://www.infovac.ch) and [www.ge.ch/protection-vaccination](http://www.ge.ch/protection-vaccination);
- **Contact us:** by telephone on 022 546 50 00 or by email at [vaccination@etat.ge.ch](mailto:vaccination@etat.ge.ch).

## **Important points**

- **How much does it cost?**

The HPV vaccination is free of charge in Geneva as part of the cantonal program. The other basic and complementary vaccinations are covered by health insurance.

- **What is the purpose of the vaccination card?**

It is also called a "vaccination certificate". It is to check the vaccines your child has received. Keep it safe and take it to each medical appointment.

- **When and why will you be asked for your child's vaccination card?**

When your child is 2 and a half years old, we will ask you for a copy of his/her vaccination card. This enables us to know whether children are protected from diseases that can cause epidemics. You will need to complete this request even if your child is not vaccinated.

## Recommended basic vaccinations

**Combined vaccines** - these are vaccines that can be grouped together to reduce the number of injections

- **Diphtheria**: causes severe angina that can be deadly.
- **Tetanus**: deadly disease affecting the nervous system.
- **Whooping cough**: respiratory disease that can be very serious for small children, sometimes even deadly.
- **Poliomyelitis**: can cause paralysis. It is still present in Africa and Asia.
- **Haemophilus influenzae**: causes serious meningitis in small children.
- **Hepatitis B**: attacks the liver and can result in cirrhosis and cancer.

3 doses at 2 months, 4 months and 12 months old (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, haemophilus influenzae, hepatitis B)

1 booster between the age of 4 to 7 years (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio).

1 booster between the age of 11 to 15 years (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough).

- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella**: still common in Switzerland with possible serious complications.
- **Chickenpox**: can cause complications such as severe pneumonia.

2 doses at 9 months and 12 months old (measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox)

### Single (or monovalent) vaccines

- **Pneumococcal infections**: can cause meningitis or pneumonia.

3 doses at 2 months, 4 months and 12 months old.

- **HPV**: can cause cervical cancer and other cancers (anus, penis, throat) later in life.

2 doses between the age of 11 to 14 years.

## Recommended complementary vaccinations

- **Meningococcal infections**: can cause serious meningitis.

Meningococcal ACWY: 1 or 2 doses (depending on the vaccine) between the age of 12 to 18 months, then 1 booster between the age of 11 to 15 years.

Meningococcal B: 3 doses, at 3 months, 5 months and between the age of 12 to 18 months, then 2 doses between the age of 11 to 15 years.

- **Rotavirus**: causes diarrhoea in children under 2 years of age.

2 doses, at 2 months and 4 months old.

## Passive immunisation

- **RSV**: causes bronchiolitis and serious diseases in small children.

1 dose, shortly after birth.